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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ALBANIA

Premier Nano Speaks on Economic Reform *[Tirana Radio]* 1
PPSh, PDSh Electoral Campaigns Reported *[ATA]* 2
People's Assembly Official on Prisoners' Pardons *[ATA]* 2
SFRY Returns 42 After Illegal Border Crossings *[Tirana Radio]* 2

BULGARIA

Prime Minister Popov Supports June Elections *[BTA]* 3
BSP Paper Denounces Opposition 'Extremists' *[DUMA 18 Mar]* 3
BSP Legislative Group Issues Crisis Declaration *[DUMA 16 Mar]* 3
Reformers Present Demands to Supreme Council *[DUMA 17 Mar]* 4
SDS Issues Declaration on BSP Activity *[Sofia Radio]* 5
Assembly Deputy Criticized for Owning Company *[DUMA 16 Mar]* 5
Zhivkov's Apartment Distribution Plan Examined *[BTA]* 6
Stefanov Testifies at Trial *[BTA]* 6
Social Democrat Leader on Ethnic Issue, BSP *[NARODNA ARMIYA 15 Mar]* 7
Political Council Discusses Election Date *[BTA]* 7
Prime Minister Attends Commission Meeting *[DEMOKRATSIYA 14 Mar]* 7
New Council of Ministers Appointments Reported *[Sofia Radio]* 7
Compensation for Repression Victims Sought *[Sofia Radio]* 8
Finance Minister on Use of Foreign Credits *[DUMA 15 Mar]* 8
Disputes in Tripartite Commission on Reforms *[BTA]* 8
Number of Unemployed Specialists Increasing *[DUMA 18 Mar]* 9
Foreign Companies To Prospect for Oil *[BTA]* 9
Tourist's Obligatory Currency Exchange Canceled *[BTA]* 10
Government Seeks To Hasten Vietnamese Departure *[BTA]* 10

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Political Parties Offer Views on Referendum *[Prague Radio]* 11
Calfa Rejects Meciar's Concept of Federation *[MLADA FRONTA DNES 18 Mar]* 11
Dubcek on Screenings, VPN's Drift to Right *[NARODNA OBRODA 14 Mar]* 11
Dienstbier on Slovak International Relations *[NARODNA OBRODA 15 Mar]* 12
Former Regime Prosecutors Investigated *[SLOBODNE SLOVO 16 Mar]* 13
Industry To Pay 80 Percent More for Electricity *[HOSPODARSKE NOVINY 18 Mar]* 13
February Data Show Price Increases Slowing Down *[HOSPODARSKE NOVINY 14 Mar]* 13
Civic Democratic Party Officially Registered *[CTK]* 14
Moravian Groups Reject Havel's Constitution Draft *[CTK]* 14
Slovak Council Views Political Problems *[Bratislava Radio]* 14
Meciar Comments on Possibility of Being 'Ousted' *[NARODNA OBRODA 15 Mar]* 15
Carnogursky on Political Situation in Slovkia *[NARODNA OBRODA 19 Mar]* 16
KDH 'Not Interested' in Meciar's Downfall *[CTK]* 16
Carnogursky Outlines KDH Positions *[Bratislava Radio]* 16
Slovak Parties Surveyed on Recalling Meciar *[Bratislava PRAVDA 19 Mar]* 17
Meciar's VPN Faction Issues Statement *[NARODNA OBRODA 19 Mar]* 18
Havel Blamed for Incident With Demonstrators *[Fuele in NARODNA OBRODA 15 Mar]* 18
Havel's Conduct, TV Speech Criticized *[Kottan in SMENA 18 Mar]* 19
New Head of Meciar's Secretariat Appointed *[NARODNA OBRODA 19 Mar]* 19

HUNGARY

Goncz on Prospects of Joining Common Market *[Budapest Radio]* 20
President Goncz Interviewed on Future Expectations *[NEPSZABADSAG 18 Mar]* 20
Reporters Briefed on FKgP Leader's Dismissal *[Budapest Radio]* 20
National Assembly Agrees To Revise Pensions *[MTI]* 21
Assembly Approves Health, Social Subsidy Bills *[MTI]* 21

Investment Promotion Fund To Be Implemented *[MTI]* 21
Horn Disavows 'Misrepresented' Remarks on Debt *[MTI]* 22
MNB Chairman on Independence, Foreign Credits *[MTI]* 22
Military Officers Limited on Training Abroad *[Budapest Radio]* 23
Soviet Ambassador Comments on Troop Withdrawal *[MTI]* 23
Details of Soviet Oil Imports Provided *[MTI]* 23
Defense Minister, Polish Counterpart End Talks *[MTI]* 24

POLAND

Walesa Meets With Bush, Baker in Washington *[PAP]* 25
Officials Comment on Talks *[PAP]* 25
Walesa Gives Speech *[Warsaw Radio]* 26
Kolodziejczyk Notes NATO Counterbalancing Role *[Warsaw Radio]* 26
Progress Reported in EC Cooperation Talks *[PAP]* 26
Free Trade Proposals 'Not Satisfactory' *[PAP]* 27
Sejm Speaker Reacts to Elections Criticism *[Warsaw Radio]* 27
Solidarity Adopts Stance on Reprivatization *[Warsaw Radio]* 27
Meeting Supports Farmers' Protest *[Warsaw Radio]* 27

ROMANIA

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Diplomacy Issues *[ROMANIA LIBERA 16 Mar]* 28
FSN Communique Condemns PNL's 'Slandering' *[ROMPRES]* 30
Reactions to National Salvation Front Convention *[ROMPRES]* 30
Fratia TU Holds News Conference on Prices *[ROMPRES]* 31
Bistrita Rally Demands 'Real Social Protection' *[ROMPRES]* 31
Iliescu Accused of 'Saving' Nomenklatura *[DREPTATEA 14 Mar]* 31
Stolojan Denies Information on Price Increase *[ROMPRES]* 32
Severin on Reform, Changes in Executive Structure *[ROMPRES]* 32
Former Communist Party Members Plead Not Guilty *[ROMPRES]* 33
Foreign Ministry Assesses Moldova Referendum *[ROMPRES]* 33

YUGOSLAVIA

Markovic Views Political, Economic Crisis *[Zagreb Radio]* 34
Presidency Session Viewed 'Increasingly Strident' *[Zagreb Radio]* 36
Markovic Protests Exclusion From Media Access *[TANJUG]* 36
FEC Responds to Jovic's Criticism *[TANJUG]* 36
Republic Presidents Schedule Regular Meetings *[TANJUG]* 37
Croatian Defense Council Assails Army Stands *[Zagreb Radio]* 37
Armed Forces Comment Questioned *[TANJUG]* 39
Mesic To Attend Federal Presidency Session *[TANJUG]* 39
Croatia's Racan Denounces LC-MY Accusations *[BORBA 14 Mar]* 39
Croatian, Slovene 'Shadow Governments' Meet *[TANJUG]* 39
Serbian Assembly Rejects Jovic Resignation *[Belgrade Radio]* 40
Jovic To Respect Decision *[TANJUG]* 40
Serbian Parties Deny Claims by Tudjman *[TANJUG]* 40
Deny Contacts With Tudjman *[TANJUG]* 40
Serbia Nominates Ethnic Albanian for Presidency *[TANJUG]* 41
Serbian Assembly Protest Delayed Inquiry *[TANJUG]* 41
Following Knin, Several Municipalities Secede *[TANJUG]* 41
Draskovic: Milosevic Seeks 'To Provoke Chaos' *[TANJUG]* 41
Kucan Urges Germany To Adopt 'Flexible Stand' *[TANJUG]* 42
Slovenian Newspapers Criticize Army, Markovic *[TANJUG]* 42
Kosovo Parties Reject Census Participation *[FLAKA E VELLAZERIMIT 15 Mar]* 42
Kosovo's Sapundziju To Attend Presidency Session *[Zagreb Radio]* 44
Karadzic on Bosnian Serbs' 'Impossible Position' *[POLITIKA 16 Mar]* 44
Macedonia's Gligorov on Presidency Session *[Belgrade Radio]* 45
Macedonia Bans Founding of Albanian Group *[TANJUG]* 45
Kljusev Elected Macedonian Prime Minister *[TANJUG]* 45
Novi Sad Adopts Draft Provincial Statute *[POLITIKA 13 Mar]* 45
Reportage on Budimir Loncar's Mideast Visit *[cross-reference]* 46

Premier Nano Speaks on Economic Reform

AU2103211291 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] The Executive Committee of Durres District People's Council organized a meeting in the Aleksander Moisiu Palace of Culture this afternoon with Comrade Fatos Nano, chairman of the Council of Ministers, to analyze the government's program for economic reforms.

Cadres and specialists in various fields of production and life, outstanding workers from the district's economic enterprises, etc. took part.

The premier said, among other things, that the government, in the economic reforms it has undertaken, has the basic aim of strengthening and hastening democratic processes in the field of the economy, overcoming its present serious situation, defining priority developments to refine the economic structure in the future, and transforming the centrally managed economic system into a market economy. The government's program in the economic sphere, he emphasized, will be based first on our own work, as well as on strengthening cooperation with other countries. This economic reform will be carried out in a gradual, measured way with clearly defined phases, not upsetting socioeconomic stability and especially people's psychological stability.

The premier focused in particular on an analysis of the concept of the market economy. He emphasized that the market economy implies a mixed and diversified economy, in which elements of state control will be harmonized with other forms of economic participation, such as the cooperativist sector in agriculture, industry, and handicrafts, and genuine private property. In such an economy, there will be a market for commodities, consumer goods, the means of production, labor, capital, and investments, in the banking system, securities, etc. There will be competition among and within the various forms of property through the prices system, etc.

Comrade Fatos Nano explained the main links in the economic reform to those present at the meeting. He spoke about the future decentralization of the economy to create small production and service units as value creators that will eliminate monopolies in production and pricing. He then focused especially on the law on privatizing the economy prepared by the government and approved by a special decree of the Presidium of the People's Assembly.

The premier informed those present about the paths to be followed for the creation and development of private property and private activities, in which, alongside the creation of the new units—as is now under way in the service and handicraft sectors—a proportion of state property will be turned into private property with compensation. Both Albanian and foreign citizens have the right to conduct private economic activities. After considering the question of which fields of material production and services may be privatized and which are the branches, sectors, or enterprises of strategic importance for the economy whose privatization will not be allowed, the premier outlined the various ways of organizing and operating private activities. The Committee for Economic Reorganization under the Council of Ministers will keep track of the process of privatization.

After talking about price liberalization within the economic reform and the rethinking and restructuring of the monetary and bank credit systems, the state finances, the new regime of economic relations with foreign countries, and the system of social assistance, management, and administration, he also focused on the various forms of agricultural property, agricultural cooperatives and state enterprises.

These, he said, require balanced solutions that will bear in mind social and economic aspects. It is a fact that the supply of milk, meat, vegetables, beans, and potatoes in agricultural cooperatives—especially in recent years—has been and remains below the standards for nationwide consumption. The time has come to study the problem of granting land and livestock also to families that live and work on the territory of agricultural enterprises. This, however, cannot be done by hasty and adventurist steps that the government will not allow, either by making premature and biased corrections to the benefit of only a section of the rural population, such as those people on state farms, or in the high season of agricultural work, which would lead to organizational and economic chaos. At the moment, the problem of improving supplies to the residents of state farms must be considered in a planned way, preserving the existing organizational structure and improving the productive capacity of agricultural enterprises.

The agricultural enterprises have land, livestock, labor, and machinery at their own disposal, and there is no reason for them to expect the state to solve their problems from above. There is also a social aspect to this question. The agricultural cooperatives have 1,750,000 inhabitants, while the state enterprises have 316,000 inhabitants. Any ill-considered grant of land and livestock to the families of the agricultural enterprises, in which working people earn between two and three times more than cooperativists, would further damage their chances of working and living equally and would create significant problems for the peasantry. This is a reason, Comrade Fatos Nano said, why balanced and wise solutions are needed at the proper time, to preserve harmony and unity among the forms of property and to build on economic results in agriculture. The solutions the Ministry of Agriculture should suggest for these issues, together with the Committee for Economic Reorganization, will be discussed at length in consultation with cooperativists and employees of agricultural enterprises, who know better than anyone else how to protect their essential interests connected with their work, property, and common life.

In conclusion, Comrade Fatos Nano focused on our state's very intensive recent diplomatic activity, with frequent visits and contacts with representatives of international organizations and important foreign states that have marked an important qualitative leap forward in our diplomacy, in the interests of the homeland and the people and further affirming Albania in world politics. The reestablishment of diplomatic relations with the United States occupies a special place. The successful dialogue conducted with Italy, Turkey, the United Nations, etc. has also been important. We observe with satisfaction that our desire to expand all-round relations with the world, Premier Fatos Nano stressed, is meeting a positive response from important states and international organizations, which well appreciate the importance of Albania's stability for security in the Balkans and Europe, and moreover appreciate the program of political and economic reforms being carried out in our country.

PPSh, PDSh Electoral Campaigns Reported

AU2103145091 Tirana ATA in English 1302 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Tirana, March 21 (ATA)—The committee of the Party of Labour (PLA) [Albanian Workers' Party—PPSh] of Gjirokaster District organized a meeting for analysing the electoral program of the PLA, particularly in the economic and social fields.

The secretary of the Central Committee of the PLA, Prof. Dr. Abdyl Backa, laid the stress among others in his speech on the idea that its electoral program constitutes the sound base for renovating the whole activity of the PLA for the organisational renewal of the working methods at all levels. The program of the Party of Labour is solid and contemporary. It is pervaded by the fundamental idea of national unity, righteously estimating the history and balancing the interests of classes and strata of the whole population. Concentrating on the economic problems, he said that the market economy, with pluralism on property and active operation of the state, will create a broad field of action for the motive forces of society in production and elsewhere.

The branch of the Democratic Party [PDSh] of Shkoder District organized a rally on occasion of the opening of the election campaign. In his speech, the chairman of the branch of the DP of the district, Pjeter Arbnori, said among the other things that at the beginning of this spring, we are making preparations to see to free pluralist elections in social peace, tolerance and tranquillity. At the rally it was spoken on the current economic difficulties and the program of the DP in this field was analysed regarding questions that have to do with the creation of free market economy, development of business, introduction of contemporary technology, agrarian problem, etc.

People's Assembly Official on Prisoners' Pardons

AU2103211591 Tirana ATA in English 1805 GMT 21 Mar 91

["Interview of the Head of Department of Legislation of the Presidium of the People's Assembly Kujtim Puto With the Television"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, March 21 (ATA)—By the recent decree of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, 126 other persons who were serving sentences mainly for propaganda or flight were pardoned. 48 others, who were serving their sentences also for crimes such as stealing of socialist property, subversion, terroristic acts and others, were pardoned that part of sentence for propaganda and flight. After this, there are no more detainees in these education centers and prisons who are serving sentences for propaganda and flight. For grave crimes such as subversion, sabotage, terroristic acts, and espionage 64 other persons are serving their times. [word indistinct] the dangers and the consequences they caused, these crimes are not the same as the sentences for propaganda which have to do with expression of thoughts against the regime in power or with flight, which according to the former law was to flee the country illegally not to come back again.

According to the Constitution, the Presidium of the People's Assembly has the right to pardon but it has also the right to decide whether a detainee should be pardoned or not proceeding from the behaviour of the prisoner, the level of his reeducation, family conditions, political and social ones, and it grants pardons continuously.

SFRY Returns 42 After Illegal Border Crossings

AU2103172591 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1700 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] At 1300 on 20 March 1991, the Yugoslav side returned 42 people who had crossed the state border illegally. They were handed over at the Morine border point in Kukes District. Those returned are mainly between 17 and 25 years of age, and include four girls. The delivery of these persons by the Yugoslav side and their reception by the Albanian side took place in accordance with the laws and regulations in force. At the time of the delivery of the aforementioned persons, the Yugoslav side stated to the Albanian side that all persons who may cross the border in this sector will be returned within 24 hours.

Prime Minister Popov Supports June Elections

AU2003203491 Sofia BTA in English 2009 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Sofia, March 20 (BTA)—The local elections in Bulgaria will be held in June if the Grand National Assembly passes the package of local government acts by the beginning of April, Prime Minister Dimitur Popov said at a press conference today.

In connection with the talks on updating the political forces' agreement, which served as the basis for the formation of the present cabinet, Mr. Popov said that the general elections should not be held before the adoption of the new constitution, but added that only parliament is entitled to take the final decision on the matter.

The prime minister defended the economic policy of the government as a result of which the exchange rate of the lev against the dollar doubled within a month. Mr. Popov said that the high interest rates would continue to be used as an instrument of pressing the enterprises into marketing their products and selling basic means of productions as part of the government's anti-inflation "expensive money" policy.

BSP Paper Denounces Opposition 'Extremists'

AU2103180691 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 18 Mar 91 p 6

[Untitled DUMA editorial]

[Text] The advance of the right-wing opposition forces in the country and of their leadership, in particular, is in full swing. The Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] is a special target of abuse. The so-called "Stoyan Ganev case" has provided the occasion for this attack, but it is merely a pretext. We are witnessing a new escalation of tension in the social atmosphere in the pursuit of definite political goals. The Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] and its legislative allies are trying to provoke a conflict with the BSP to mark the beginning of the election campaign.

We are convinced that the "Ganev case" is clear to all sensible people in our country. Despite the evidence provided by the report of the Credentials Commission signed by its 23 members, which also included deputies from the SDS, certain forces are trying to question the work of the commission. This is a necessary requisite for them in trying to disrupt the activities of legislative and to shift the blame from the guilty to the innocent. If Stoyan Ganev remains a legislative member this would be a flagrant legal injustice, but this is not the concern of the gentlemen in question. They are striving to provoke a new legislative conflict likely to develop into a crisis. The results are predictable.

Yesterday's opposition rally that reportedly has already united and was joined by the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union [BZNS] and the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS] once more showed that the right-wing forces are by no means worried about public peace. The speeches delivered at the rally were not only unfair because they distorted facts, but also were outright provocative. Once more the participants in the rally shouted the well-known slogans of 1990 and the speakers repeatedly incited their audience against the Socialists and their supporters. Even the most gullible people realize today that there is no question of promoting democracy, but of politically, and not only politically, destroying the BSP. There are no more delusions in that respect.

Fortunately, figures like Mr. Vodenicharov exist within the opposition who do not agree with such policy and are striving for sensible solutions. It is no coincidence that Mr. Karakachanov tried to distance himself from the extremists. Those who are trying to distance themselves are doing so not because they like the BSP, but because they are embarrassed by the unpredictable acts of the escalating political venom. Common sense has always been disturbed by venom and this has always prompted the people with common sense to side with the truth.

The development of various processes in our political life has become increasingly explosive. This confronts our country with the menace of great dangers. Let us hope that the people will show their wisdom once more. Let us hope that excitement will not prevail over the will for a calm and peaceful transition. The entire policy of the BSP and of its legislative group is aimed at this goal.

BSP Legislative Group Issues Crisis Declaration

AU2103141691 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 16 Mar 91 p 1

["Declaration" of the Bulgarian Socialist Party Legislative Group: "In Contradiction With Common Sense"]

[Text] Last night the Grand National Assembly adopted the following resolution on the report of the Credentials Committee. The resolution confirms the legality of the elections held on 10 and 17 June 1990 and recognizes the election of 408 National Assembly deputies as valid. Members of all legislative groups participated in the vote on the resolution. Nearly all National Assembly deputies shared the viewpoint on the legality of the Grand National Assembly, although in two different versions. It is evident that the aforementioned resolution has clearly and unmistakably confirmed the legality of the Grand National Assembly.

Nevertheless, Aleksandur Yordanov, deputy of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS], abused the National Assembly resolution in a manner that totally contradicts common sense by issuing a strange-sounding declaration, to put it mildly. The declaration claims the opposite, namely that in voting the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] had allegedly questioned the legality of the Grand National Assembly where it holds the majority, as is

known. There is even more: Yordanov, basing his arguments on the aforementioned facts, claimed that the resolution questions the current democratic process in Bulgaria as a whole.

It is our conviction that the biased and unjustified arguments contained in Yordanov's declaration conceal the truth about the elections and seriously jeopardize the democratic process in our country. They are particularly dangerous today, when the reform in our country has reached its most decisive and difficult stage, when international financial institutions are discussing decisions of crucial importance for Bulgaria, decisions that seriously affect the country's stability, when the new constitution is being discussed, and when we are awaiting the upcoming local elections.

Stability was a major goal of the BSP throughout the period following 10 November 1989 to this day. For the sake of that goal we tried to achieve consensus with all political forces, the SDS included.

We should not forget that the BSP, unlike certain SDS circles, would never question the legality of the elections held on 10 and 17 June 1990. Both prior to and following the elections the BSP conducted a consistent policy of sensible compromise and responded to extra-legislative pressure with a reasonable and constructive approach.

It is preposterous to claim that the BSP is trying to affect legislative democracy and to undermine the political agreement of 3 January 1991 on the very same day our party is submitting a package of bills on the reform of local authorities to the Grand National Assembly. The passing of the bills in question is likely to clear the way for holding the municipal elections as soon as possible.

The claim that the BSP is allegedly blocking the reforms and the application of the land law is absurd. Regardless of how many rallies the opposition convenes, it cannot conceal the truth. Following long years under a totalitarian regime, Bulgaria finally has a National Assembly that was freely elected and is functioning in accordance with Constitution and legislation. Our legislature is expected to focus all its efforts on the drafting of the new constitution and of the new laws that are likely to guarantee the implementation of the reform. To question all this can only be described as an irresponsible act, to put it mildly. The BSP is ready to pursue its constructive efforts so the Grand National Assembly may implement the people's will in accordance with its obligation.

Reformers Present Demands to Supreme Council

AU2103140791 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 17 Mar 91 pp 1, 2

[Dora Chichkova report]

[Text] The convening of a national party conference within one month; isolation [izolirane] of all conservative forces from the party leadership and bodies with organizational influence within the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP]; dissociation from the pseudo-theoretical and populist attempts to distort the true content of democratic socialism; and an objective, honest, and human declaration of the party's political responsibility, without regard for whose interests—within or outside the BSP—would be affected by such a declaration.

These were the four main demands in the point of view that the participants in the national meeting of Socialist reformers held on 16 March put to the BSP and the party Presidium. The meeting was convened at the initiative of the ASO [Alternative Socialist Association] (an intra-party organization).

The motives for the promised reactivation of the radical movement were what the organizers described as the alarming restoration tendencies within the BSP, which are supported more or less openly by some members of the BSP Supreme Council and the Presidium.

The BSP acts on the political stage more like a communist than a socialist or social democratic force, stated ASP Chairman Valentin Vatsev in the report that which he delivered in his own name. According to him, Bulgarian society contains a vast socialist potential. The fate of the party and of society as a whole, he said, hangs on the issue of how this potential is utilized by the party—in a revolutionary-populist or evolutionary-reformist manner.

The ASO chairman predicted that the country was entering a period of complete uncertainty, civic conflict, and retreat from the democratic gains already won. In his view, during the coming summer these tendencies may develop beyond normal political and legislative control and may prompt the new political and economic elites to use force to preserve civil peace.

As grounds for this forecast, Vatsev pointed to the fact that power and property in the country, although now in different hands, remain concentrated to the same or even a greater extent than was the case under totalitarianism; they have merely changed their master. One observes not so much a granting of power to the broad masses of the people as a struggle on the part of not one, as before, but of several elites to win control of the main levers of power.

All this indicates that Bulgaria only possesses a formal democracy so far, and even this form of democracy is threatened by the crisis of political awareness that our society is experiencing following the highly politicized summer and autumn of last year.

The BSP, Vatsev said, is one of the key factors that affects the favorable or unfavorable development of the aforementioned processes and trends. The true socialist (not communist) nature, if it was evident, might be demonstrated by taking consistent measures to decentralize power and ownership, expand political and economic democracy, and genuinely involve the workers in the processes of management.

Instead of this, one sees cases of undignified and dangerous scrambling for power, of apparatchiks playing crafty tricks, and of cliques trying to outsmart one another; even the radical movement has not remained free of this. Against this background, Vatsev stated, one is especially alarmed by the offensive mounted by the archaic political forces, which no longer attempt to hide their readiness to revise the party platform in a neo-Stalinist vein.

According to Vatsev, the solution lay in a new congress, which should put a stop to the dangerous restoration tendencies. Certain speakers, weighing up the real influence of the social democratic forces within the party, voiced doubts over whether a congress would produce the desired sea change.

Chavdar Krustev of the "Road to Europe" Movement floated the idea of a national party conference, which would draft the party's economic and social strategy.

The debates revealed that, generally speaking, the ideological tendencies with a social democratic orientation share a common view on the possibilities for expanding their influence, namely through direct participation in practical politics, in solving people's specific social problems, and in restoring the national economy.

Yesterday's meeting again revealed the old problem of cooperation between the different tendencies. Unless we overcome the syndrome of believing in our own uniqueness and unite together, said Georgi Genov, co-chairman of the "Demos" Movement, there will be none of us left in this party, or we will merely survive as a small circle existing on a moral and ethical basis.

In this spirit, the meeting also discussed the idea of forming a "new democratic left" or a "social democratic center in the BSP." According to Yanaki Stoilov, however, the new concept cannot supplant the existing problem—namely, the issue of whether, according to his words, we have lost our capacity to cooperate.

"The radicals have overplayed their radicalism, the aces in the pack have all been played, but the roads to Europe have become extremely costly," said one of the speakers, in his attempt to give expression to the minority view in the Georgi Kirkov Hall, which proved to be very large in relation to the number of people attending yesterday's meeting. Some speakers commented that they felt as if they were attending a requiem service or the funeral of the radical movement.

The meeting decided to hold the third national conference of the movement on 30 March.

SDS Issues Declaration on BSP Activity

AU2103183591 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1700 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Statement issued by the Coordinating Council of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) in Sofia on 21 March]

[Text] The SDS National Coordinating Council, noting the complex character of the political situation in the country, characterized by the violations on the part of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] of all articles of the 3 January 1991 agreement, the difficulties of the economic reform, slowed down by the behavior of the BSP in the Grand National Assembly, the provocative behavior and propaganda of the BSP against the president and the government, whose activity the BSP supports in words and obstructs indeed, and the versatility of views in the SDS, utilized by the BSP for creating the impression of differences in assessing the situation within the SDS and strengthening the puzzlement of the Bulgarian people, declares:

The SDS is a political organization that unites the people in Bulgaria who want to change the country's political and economic system, and the removal of communism. Regardless of the serious considerations that motivate the positions of every SDS representative, our main position remains the striving to change the system. The SDS supports the policy of the government, aimed at conducting the economic reform, consistently supported by the SDS members of the government.

The reform is a guarantee to change the system and it must continue. The legislature must express its support of the reform. The SDS finds that postponing the legislative elections threatens the development of the democratic process. The different opinions, expressed by various members and organizations within the SDS do not represent the opinion of the SDS as a whole. Therefore, it is necessary to create guarantees of completing the work of the Grand National Assembly until mid-May.

The SDS National Coordinating Council appeals to all members of the Grand National Assembly, elected by the blue ballot, to vote for such guarantees and for holding legislative elections in June 1991. The SDS National Coordinating Council maintains that the files of the Grand National Assembly members and the political leaders must be published. Naturally, it is necessary to observe the procedural rules, to transfer the files to authorized persons, and find the missing files. We reject with indignation any proposals and insinuations about deals related to the files, which come from other forces represented in the legislature.

Assembly Deputy Criticized for Owning Company

AU2103152791 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 16 Mar 91 p 2

[Nikola Dinkov report: "M.P. Stoyan Ganev Owns a Show Business Agency"]

[Text] Stoyan Ganev, national assembly deputy of the 90th Single-Mandate Constituency in Parzardzhik, has registered a company under the name "Balkanimpress—2" together with his brother Yuliyan. The company is expected to deal with the organization of concerts, shows, and variety programs, hiring music bands, artists,

entertainers, musicians, dancers, stage designers, directors, and choreographers. The owners of the agency also foresee the organization of shows and entertainment programs in restaurants, bars, and pubs, the supply of phonographs, cassette recorders, juke boxes, audiovisual programs, and others.

The aforementioned facts are recorded in Decision No. 281 of 23 August 1989 issued by the Pazardzhik District Court. No application to discontinue the activities of the agency, or for Ganev's withdrawal from it has been submitted to this date. The registration was made prior to Ganev's being sworn in as a legislative member.

According to legal experts, Article 59, Paragraph 2, Item 1 of the Statute on Economic Activities, legislative members are not entitled to establish companies. Paragraph 12 of the provisional regulations applying to the aforementioned document is in contradiction with the above cited Article 59, considering that it does not settle the question of ownership by legislative members of companies established prior to the elections. In all circumstances, however, a correct interpretation of the regulation in question is called for, which can only be provided by the Supreme Court or the Grand National Assembly.

As for all other categories of leaders who are subject to the law in question and have established companies prior to the enforcement of the aforementioned law, they are required either to dissolve their company, if they are the sole owners, or to withdraw from it, if they are shareholders.

Zhivkov's Apartment Distribution Plan Examined

AU2103150091 Sofia BTA in English 1333 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Sofia, March 21 (BTA)—The Zhivkov-Balev trial, which has lately concentrated on the possibilities for obtaining housing from the office of the former No. 1, has disclosed other curious details on how the dictator could be approached and asked for a favor. It became known from a witness's evidence that it could all be arranged during a shooting party organized by the former security and protection department. The hunters were allowed to talk with Todor Zhivkov and the "sociable" leader managed to draw them out. They told him about their problems and complaints and Todor Zhivkov took up an attitude towards some of them.

Students' festivities also offered opportunities. A first-year young lady from the "leader's" native place was honored with presenting flowers to a group of official guests, Zhivkov included. After a friendly chat the young lady was provided with a place to live. Some time passed and the flat became too small for the student who had got married. She just called Zhivkov's secretaries and the "miracle" was repeated.

Another lady was ingenious enough to obtain an invitation for one of the traditional get-togethers held in Zhivkov's birthplace, the town of Pravets. There she handed her application to him and her problem was solved.

Mr. Diko Fuchedzhiev, former director of the National Theater in Sofia, told the court point blank that he and other people like him capitalized on the fact that Number One was a theater buff and approached him about their artistic and personal problems, housing included. It became clear from Mr. Fuchedzhiev's words that the theatrical community profited much from these meetings.

Stefanov Testifies at Trial

AU2003164191 Sofia BTA in English 1618 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Sofia, March 20 (BTA)—"Todor Zhivkov used to intimidate his staff," the former chief of his office said today. Witness Nikola Stefanov told the court hearing the Zhivkov-Balev case that the former dictator made his staff dance the quadrille, constantly reshuffling it, thus creating an atmosphere of insecurity and suspicion.

"He was prone to nepotism in his work," Mr. Stefanov stressed. He also spoke about his former chief's notorious shrewdness.

Housing and Zhivkov's role in its distribution has been one of the subjects of the trial for the last few days. In this connection Mr. Nikola Stefanov denied that Zhivkov's office had ever been authorized to deal with such matters. According to the witness only Lyuben Bozhev and Dimitur Gyurov had been entrusted with the distribution of housing.

"Zhivkov was not very exacting with his assistants, he was tolerant with them," Mr. Stefanov added. He characterized the former Number One as an efficient worker.

Fifteen days ago Zhivkov complained at the hearing that his character record had not been submitted, though it is not denied even to the most inveterate criminals.

Mr. Stefanov is one of the few witnesses from Zhivkov's circle who ventured to speak about the personality of his "boss" and in negative terms at that.

Television star Mr. Kevork Kevorkyan, known from the Every Sunday Review, was among the witnesses who failed to appear in court without serious cause. The court levied a 40 leva fine on him and ruled that he should be brought there by compulsion.

Today a crowd of some 100 people in downtown Sofia were raising money for Todor Zhivkov to buy him a new blanket, because his old one got lost during last year's investigation when Zhivkov had to constantly change his residence. At the beginning of the trial the former dictator claimed this blanket was his only personal belonging.

Social Democrat Leader on Ethnic Issue, BSP

AU2103135791 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 15 Mar 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Illegitimate Daughter?"]

[Text] The Social Democrats do not accept that the nationality issue should be settled by force. Petur Dertliev, leader of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party declared at a news conference. Such an approach affects normal legislative proceedings, he added. Ahmed Dogan could have tried to achieve a consensus of the political forces on the problem in question and he would certainly have found it. If one side tries to impose its will by saying: "We insist, we demand that this or that should happen under all circumstances," then the other side will certainly answer: "We refuse," Dertliev pointed out.

Dertliev did not deny that he was unwilling to cooperate with the Bulgarian Democratic Forum, which recently joined the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] as an observer, explaining that this new formation was the successor of a fascist organization and Social Democrats renounce any form of dictatorship, irrespective of its color.

Answering a question whether there is likely to be any dispute between the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] and the SDS regarding the celebration of the centennial of the Buzludzha Congress [at which the Bulgarian Socialist movement was established], Dertliev cited Plekhanov, who being asked whether he regarded Lenin as his own son is reported answering: "If he is my son, he is presumably an illegitimate one." The analogy is unmistakable: The BSP should assume the heavy burden of being an illegitimate daughter of the original "mother" party, namely of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Workers Party.

Political Council Discusses Election Date

AU2003215391 Sofia BTA in English 2124 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Sofia, March 20 (BTA)—"All representatives of the political forces insist that the government and the reform should be supported," the president's spokesman, Mr. Valentin Stoyanov, said after the meeting of the Political Consultative Council this evening.

He said that there were heated debates on the date the local and the parliamentary elections should be held, but no agreement was reached. That is why the commission which is working on the text of the addendum to the political agreement will offer MP's several options on each item.

The president's spokesman expressly stated that the Political Consultative Council is not entitled to taking decisions. It just holds political discussions, while it is the Grand National Assembly that should makes the decisions.

Judging by the statements made by some participants in the discussion, it has been nearly agreed that the local elections should be held in June. As to the new parliamentary elections, opinions are still divided between June and the autumn. MP Stoyan Ganev has suggested a third variant, according to which an ordinary National Assembly should be elected and in the meantime the present Grand National Assembly will go on with its work on the new constitution.

Prime Minister Attends Commission Meeting

AU2103181991 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 14 Mar 91 p 2

[Report on statement by Prime Minister Dimitur Popov; place and date not given]

[Text] The Council of Ministers intends to submit to the Grand National Assembly a bill on amendments and addenda to the Constitution, and in particular on amendments of texts related to local government entities. This was announced by the government leader Prime Minister Dimitur Popov at a session of the Legislative Commission in Charge of Drafting the Constitution. The prime minister explained that the adoption of the new Constitution is expected to play an important role for the debates on and adoption of three important, additional bills that are also ready. He was talking about the bills on the country's new administrative-territorial division, on the election of local government services on local self-government. The Council of Ministers has already completed the drafting of the documents in question and they will be submitted to the relevant permanent commissions within the forthcoming days, the prime minister stated.

New Council of Ministers Appointments Reported

AU2003215591 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2100 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] In connection with the new tasks of the government some changes were conducted in the Council of Ministers. This was reported by the government's Press Service.

Pancho (Barkalov), chief secretary of the Council of Ministers, and Dimitur Karamfilov, head of the office of the Prime Minister, have been released from their posts. Ivan Minev, a jurist, was appointed chief secretary of the Council of Ministers, and Kiril Manov, also a jurist without party affiliation, was appointed head of Mr. Popov's office.

Yasen Indzhev was appointed head of the Press Service and spokesman of the Council of Ministers. He is a journalist without any party affiliations, and a former colleague of ours. We congratulate him.

The new organizational structure will include a significantly smaller apparatus. In addition to the Press Service

and the Council on Normative Acts, four general departments have been created. Those are the Legal Department, the Economic Department, the Sociopolitical Department, and the Department on Territorial Administration and Public Order. Some 57 officials have been dropped from the payroll. This will save more than half a million leva.

Compensation for Repression Victims Sought

AU2003125291 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] In a open letter addressed to the ministers of justice, finance, and internal affairs, Dimitur Batalov, chairman of the Club of Victims of Post-1945 Repressions, demands that they intervene in the matter of issuing the documents required for compensation of the thousands of victims of repressions since 1945. Batalov said that the business of securing the documents has become a harrowing process of visiting different offices. His letter was published in ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME on 12 March.

BTA has received a reply to Bakalov's letter from the Press Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which states:

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has taken timely measures and set up a special organization to fulfill the tasks stemming from Council of Ministers Decree No. 38 of 28 April 1990 on the procedure for determining a one-time compensation payment for victims of political repressions since 1 January 1946. Up to 16 March 1991, the necessary action was taken to issue the relevant documents in response to applications from 5,720 citizens throughout the country.

Due to the fact that during the second half of 1990 the ministry received over 10,000 applications, each of which has to be checked most precisely, and to provide the fullest protection of the rights of the victims of repressions and their legitimate heirs, it is necessary to extend the period defined in Article 4, Paragraph 2, of Council of Ministers Decree No. 38.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs proposes that this period should be extended to the end of 1991.

Finance Minister on Use of Foreign Credits

AU1903194691 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 15 Mar 91 p 6

[Dima Dimitrova report: "When Dollars Will Arrive in Bulgaria"]

[Text] Credits to Bulgaria have already been transferred, however, the Bulgarian National Bank is keeping the dollars in foreign banks and will not release them until a mechanism of selling and purchasing them is established. Finance Minister Ivan Kostov said on 14 March. By receiving those 1-1.5 billion U.S. dollars, Bulgaria increases its foreign debt. The old procedure, however, will not be followed. No member of the government or the Bulgarian National Bank will sign a bill of exchange, as long as it is unknown how it is to be paid back. The size of the debt is not terrible. The terrible thing is that there is no mechanism of paying the debt, Kostov said.

The credits must be resold through the banks. The enterprises and banks must arrange among themselves the issue of the dollar's exchange rate. Thus the banks will establish a fund through which the credit could be returned. If the dollar's exchange rate is 10 leva, a fund of 16 billion leva will be created.

The banks will have the complex task of correctly trading in dollars and efficiently controlling their value in leva. Against the background of this complex task, however, the banks are behaving improperly, suspecting that the government has hidden goals and sure that things are again conducted in the administrative manner, Kostov said. The banks had high inflation expectations. They have paid a high price for the dollars, and now they wait for the dollars's exchange rate to increase, before they resell them.

Another solution is to let the state distribute the dollars according to its considerations, as it has done until now. I would like to warn those who expect this to happen, that the state will not interfere, Kostov said. If the banks do not want to trade the dollars, however, we shall find a way to change this situation. Otherwise we will waste an opportunity, Kostov said.

The 377 million dollars, allocated by the EC to Bulgaria on 13 March represent the third credit that we are actually receiving from world finance institutions. In addition to this we also received 87 million dollars from the IMF. Tomorrow [15 March] we expect the IMF decision on transferring the first regular installment of about 104 million dollars [figure as published], Kostov concluded.

Disputes in Tripartite Commission on Reforms

AU2203120391 Sofia BTA in English 1036 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Sofia, March 22 (BTA)—The government criticized the representatives of private and state business and expressed disagreement with some of the views on the economic reform of the trade unions. Yesterday's trilateral meeting (of representatives of the government, the trade unions and the employers) came as an illustration of Krylov's fable about the swan, the pike and the crab against the background of a grave economic situation and a transition to market economy.

The businessmen and the trade unions took the prime minister's call for sincere opinions on the economic reform as an invitation to criticize it. Their criticism was levelled at the imperfect legal framework and the obstacles to the development of production and of home and

foreign trade. Various demands were made, without which (according to some) the different sectors of economy and economy as a whole would collapse.

The chief complaints were about the high interest rates, the taxation policy, the taxes on foreign trade operations and the absence of a concrete privatization programme indicating its goals.

Prof. Svetoslav Stavrev, vice president of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria, backed the demands of private business and deemed it necessary to stress that if recession is not put under control, if labour force prices are not liberalized and if the government continues its anti-inflation policy, serious social problems may emerge. He believes that if the hands of private business are not untied the number of the unemployed may quickly soar to one million.

So far the trade-union leader was worried by the delay of privatization. Now I fear that it will be effected in such a way that we will regret having started it, he said.

Mr. Ivan Kostov, minister of finance, Mr. Ivan Pushkarov, minister of industry, trade and services, and Prof. Todor Vulchev, governor of the National Bank, accused the businessmen of showing lack of initiative, of pursuing a wait-and-see policy and even of opposing the economic reform. According to them the business executives in the state sector are acting in the old ways—they are only requiring. Mr. Kostov noted that there is no one to ask from now, that there is no way back and that all bridges have been burnt.

The government is convinced in the expediency of its steps towards marketization. It was pointed out that the deflation measures have been approved by the International Monetary Fund and that the achievement of the aims in this field is a prerequisite for foreign assistance.

The government is resolved not to ease the pressure of the economic levers. As regards the possible social cataclysms, it thinks they will directed mainly against the employers.

Number of Unemployed Specialists Increasing

AU2103175891 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 18 Mar 91 p 1

[Maria Todorova, Petko Petkov, and Ninko Gruev report: "Number of Unemployed Specialists Is Increasing"]

[Text] The Burgas Labor Exchange alone has registered over 2,500 unemployed. Leaders of the major trade unions, however, claim that their number is three times as high, our correspondent Tsanko Raychev reports. The Burgas Labor Exchange still has the opportunity of providing approximately 900 jobs in various professional branches, but the nature of the job and the wages do not correspond to the qualifications and requirements of the unemployed cadres.

The Mikhaylovgrad Labor Exchange registered 2,131 unemployed since the beginning of 1991. The figure involves approximately 10 percent of the able-bodied population of the former Mikhaylovgrad Okrug, our local correspondent Neofit Petkov reports. The fact that 160 university graduates, 23 very young people included, are unemployed is quite discouraging.

The number of unemployed registered by the Pernik Labor Exchange was three times higher in January and February 1991 compared with December 1990 says Maria Todorova in summing up the situation in the area, where 1,961 unemployed were registered in the municipalities, 2,323 of whom are women. The majority of those unemployed in the area have been dismissed on the basis of Decree No. 57 adopted by the Council of Ministers.

We presume that the number of unemployed in the Pernik area is expected to reach 5,500 by the end of June 1991.

In the Sliven municipality over 2,200 unemployed were registered by the beginning of March 1991. Manual workers, technicians, and specialists with university degrees and high qualifications are among them, Petko Petkov reports. Engineers, economists, and teachers are in the majority of unemployed intellectuals. The large number of unemployed will be additionally increased by 1,500 militaries, 800 workers and specialists from the material production branches who are expected to be dismissed in the near future.

The initiative committee on behalf of 1,500 unemployed in Vidin submitted an appeal to the Provisional Executive Committee of the local People's Council, to the President of the Republic's office, to the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, and also to the Podkrepa Labor Confederation, the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria, and to the dailies DEMOKRATSIYA and PODKREPA, describing the difficult situation that affects numerous young specialists and their families because of the personnel cuts, Ninko Gruev reports with concern. Numerous enterprises and offices in Vidin where pensioners are working in regular jobs are pointed out in the appeal. The unemployed urge the provisional city administration to show understanding and to support them in solving their difficult social problems.

Foreign Companies To Prospect for Oil

AU2103154191 Sofia BTA in English 1518 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Sofia, March 21 (BTA)—Agreements for granting licenses for oil prospecting and for the exploitation of oil fields in Bulgaria and in Bulgaria's Black Sea continental shelf to leading oil companies have been endorsed and are to be signed presently, a source of the Council of Ministers reported today.

Eight of the 17 companies which took part in the auction organized by Bulgaria have won: Two U.S. companies, two British, two Norwegian, one Austrian and one Belgian.

Six areas will be given for prospecting, four of them in the shelf and two in eastern Bulgaria. According to the agreements, if an industrial-scale oil field is discovered within the five-year period prospecting period financed by the foreign companies, they will have the right to export up to 25 percent of its output.

The agreements will be signed by Mr. Ivan Pushkarov, minister of industry, trade and services, the Council of Ministers decided today.

Tourist's Obligatory Currency Exchange Canceled

AU2103154391 Sofia BTA in English 1520 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Sofia, March 21 (BTA)—Today the government canceled the Council of Ministers' decision of 1989 according to which foreigners on sojourn in Bulgaria were obliged to exchange 15 U.S. dollars a day. With the liberalization of the currency regulations from April 1 this became needless. The requirement for obligatory exchange remains only for the citizens of states that have introduced similar regulations for Bulgarians.

The National Bank of Bulgaria is the central bank and a juristic person, accountable only to the National Assembly, says the bill endorsed today by the Council of Ministers. This bill will shortly be moved in parliament.

The bank's chief task will be to guarantee the stability of the national currency by developing and carrying out the financial and credit policy. The National Bank has an exclusive right on issuing money. It will control the activity of the other banks to keep the stability of the banking system.

The government will move in parliament another bill which was endorsed today, on the protection of competition. It contains the basic points of the anti-monopolist legislation, unfair competition, commercial secret etc.

Government Seeks To Hasten Vietnamese Departure

AU2003163591 Sofia BTA in English 1553 GMT 20 Mar 91

["The Problem of Vietnamese Workers in Bulgaria"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, March 20 (BTA)—The Bulgarian Government has undertaken to find financial and technical means and speed up the departure of the Vietnamese workers from Bulgaria, Mr. Doncho Donchev, deputy *minister of the exterior, stated at today's briefing.*

Commenting on the incident of March 17 (in which two Vietnamese died and several Vietnamese and Bulgarians were injured), Mr. Donchev expressed his concern over the growing problems with the Vietnamese workers in Bulgaria.

Mr. Donchev recalled the note the Ministry of the Exterior issued in connection with the incident in which assurance is expressed that similar incidents, inconsistent with the traditionally friendly relations with Vietnam, will never happen again.

The Ministry of the Exterior considers that the unrestrained actions of some Vietnamese citizens that led to the dramatic events on March 17 are a violation of Bulgarian law which the Vietnamese in Bulgaria should strictly observe.

Mr. Donchev said he disagrees with the peremptory tone of the document issued by the Embassy of Vietnam in connection with the incident. Mr. Donchev confirmed Bulgaria's readiness to fulfill the intergovernmental agreement on the transportation of the Vietnamese citizens under terms and conditions acceptable for both sides. (The agreement was reached last year and a schedule for the Vietnamese passage back was worked out, but the events in the Persian Gulf made its implementation impossible). Now it will cost Bulgaria 180 million leva to fly the Vietnamese back. It is being discussed whether to ask help from some international organizations, the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration for example.

Unfavorable employment contract terms, unemployment in Bulgaria and the failure to observe the schedule of their passage back were cited among the main reasons that created the problem with the Vietnamese workers. Under the intergovernmental agreement the Vietnamese have no right to transfer their money to Vietnam. They could invest part of their pay in goods for their families' use. The acute shortages of goods in Bulgaria has worsened the problem. The Vietnamese have orientated themselves to certain kinds of goods, including medicines, which Bulgaria badly needs too. The Bulgarians has reacted to the situation sharply. According to the schedule, the first Vietnamese to leave the county will be those whose contracts have already expired.

Political Parties Offer Views on Referendum

LD1903233791 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 19 Mar 91

[Text] CTK has asked prominent representatives of political parties and movements whether a referendum [on the constitutional setup] should be held. Speaking on behalf of the Civic Democratic Party, Vaclav Klaus said that the possible use of a referendum must, in any event, remain an extreme option after all the other options have been exhausted. It should not, however, be a method used to solve problems that stem from the inability to resolve problems by the normal political mechanism. On behalf of the Civic Movement, its spokesman Vladimir Zelezny described a referendum as an extreme and yet suitable means for determining views on the fate of the CSFR state. A referendum, as an extreme measure, also received backing from Peter Katars, member of the Slovak Council of the Public Against Violence. He also expressed the hope that a possible referendum will reaffirm the common desire for mutual coexistence. The Christian Democratic Movement does not reject a referendum either and regards it as a last resort after the failure of existing parliamentarian methods. Vladimir Balko, Christian Democratic Movement spokesman, said at the same time, however, that the fate of our common state should be decided above all by republican legislatures. Zdenek Vyhlidal, from the Movement for Self-Governing Democracy-Society for Moravia and Silesia spoke unequivocally in favor of a referendum. He also gave his backing to the common Czechoslovak federative state with equal status for the Czech, Moravian-Silesian, and the Slovak land.

Calfa Rejects Meciar's Concept of Federation

AU2103153591 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 18 Mar 91 pp 1,2

[Zbynek Fiala report on the 16 March session of the CSFR Government: "Deputies and Ethics"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Calfa told us [after the 16 March session of the federal government] that he intends to address the Federal Assembly [during the 14th joint meeting of its chambers starting on 19 March]. He will reply to the petition of the [Czech and Slovak] Unions of Industry and, in the second part of his speech, he will also present his position on current relations within the federation. Prime Minister Calfa rejected Slovak Prime Minister Meciar's idea that the federation should be only some kind of a "service for the republics." According to views from the lobbies, such federal "maintenance personnel" working "to order" would serve as a means to carry political and economic fluctuations from one republic to the other, depending on who would enforce his demands "more vigorously."

Dubcek on Screenings, VPN's Drift to Right

AU2003132591 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 14 Mar 91 pp 1, 8

[Interview with Federal Assembly Chairman Alexander Dubcek by unidentified reporter; place and date not given: "Let Us Not Focus on the Past, Let Us Think About the Future"]

[Excerpts] [NARODNA OBRODA] Are you afraid that screenings might divert people's attention from main problems?

[Dubcek] I would not be speaking the truth if I denied this. I understand the motives of those who are concerned about the purity of political life. We must, however, be concerned about the social impact and consequences of screenings as well. We have had negative experience in this regard already. Therefore, I share the fears that were most pointedly expressed by V. Meciar when he objected to the method of carrying out the screenings and warned against turning screenings into public problem number one. What I am concerned about is consistent respect for democratic and legal principles. I understand that people who can be manipulated by the dark forces of the former StB [State Security] should not occupy high-level positions. The question is not whether to screen or not to screen deputies and governments. The Federal Assembly has already made the decision to screen, but ethics and legality must be observed.

[NARODNA OBRODA] Are you in favor of the publication of the list of all StB collaborators?

[Dubcek] I do not consider the demand, or the pressure, for the publication of all names to be reasonable and legally clean. Those who demand the publication of all names do not fully appreciate the legal aspects and moral consequences of this step, the impact on children, on the next generation. There often exist great doubts about who was an StB agent because, in the course of investigations, the StB registered some of the persons that it interrogated under a number [as StB collaborators] without their knowledge.

This country has experienced so many purges already.... Citizens write me that there is again a psychosis of fear, emotions, and passions in society. This is not a good phenomenon.

[NARODNA OBRODA] Where do you see a solution to this situation?

[Dubcek] In a mechanism in which these "dark" forces would be unable to assert their influence. [passage omitted] This means building a true democracy, which eliminates the danger of careerists, politically and morally discredited people, and people controlled from behind the scenes assuming a role in political processes.

I am worried lest the atmosphere of a "witch hunt" be established, in which it is easy to damage people. That is exactly what we wanted to eliminate from our society. [passage omitted]

[NARODNA OBRODA] Efforts have appeared in the Federal Assembly to degrade the reform movement of 1968, an important period in the history of our nations, and its protagonists....

[Dubcek] In an interview for MLADA FRONTA DNES, Vaclav Benda, chairman of the Christian and Democratic Union, went even further when he described the Prague Spring reformers of 1968, starting with Dubcek, as the main obstacle to development. Elsewhere, attacks have been launched against [Foreign Minister] Dienstbier, [TV Director] Kanturek, [Federal Assembly Deputy] Lis, [Federal Assembly Deputy Chairman] Jicinsky, [Slovak Prime Minister] Meciar, and others. Let us therefore not be surprised at the escalating sweeping campaign against protagonists of the 1968 reform process, at the veiling of the bust of a leading figure of the Prague Uprising of 1945 and of the 1968 reform process [reference to Josef Smrkovsky, whose bust in Wenceslas Square has been covered by activists of the Christian and Democratic Union]. These attacks do not come only from the Christian and Democratic Union and the Christian Democratic Movement but also from parts of the Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence movement [VPN]. The VPN is drifting more and more to the right, which leads to the breakup of its original policy of a wide center and, thereby, to the paralysis of the movement as such. Once again the enemy is being sought in one's own ranks, which is exactly what we wanted to get rid of in the new pluralistic society. [passage omitted]

The movement is losing the idea that gave birth to it.... What is the meaning of words about pluralism when a crusade is waged against participants in the past and present movements of revival? [passage omitted]

Dienstbier on Slovak International Relations

AU2103142991 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 15 Mar 91 p 3

[Interview with CSFR Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier by Juraj Veres and Ivan Horsky; place and date not given: "The Federation Must Be Meaningful for Our Nations"—first paragraph is NARODNA OBRODA introduction]

[Text] Jiri Dienstbier, deputy prime minister of the Federal Government and CSFR foreign minister, granted an extensive interview to NARODNA OBRODA reporters Juraj Veres and Ivan Horsky, the full text of which we will publish soon. At the outset of the interview, he spoke about the problems of the federation and questions related to the jurisdiction of the Slovak Republic Ministry of International Relations. Because of its relevance, we are publishing this part of the interview today.

[Dienstbier] Without any prejudice, I believe that each nation has the right to arrange its matters in the way it wants. I also believe that neither the absolute majority of Czechs nor the absolute majority of Slovaks want the breakup of the Czechoslovak federation. If we want to have a federation, however, this federation must be meaningful for our nations. It is impossible to have a fictitious federation, a federation constantly being challenged by someone. As long as these discussions persist and as long as we do not arrive at some conclusion, we must make a decision—by a referendum, in an extreme case—to make things clear and to be aware on what basis we are proceeding. I do not want to theorize about what is derived—whose rights are original and whose are derived. The fact is that if we agree on having a federation, then the federal bodies must have powers that will not be derived and that will be respected. Each entity must have its own identity. For example, as far as foreign policy is concerned, we reached an agreement as far back as in September—with Prime Minister Meciar and Minister Knazko—that, in fact, we do not have to split any jurisdiction. That is to say, everything that is within the jurisdiction of the federation—as a subject of international law—is indivisible and all the rest is the right of the republics and even individuals. The task of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to create prerequisites for establishing real international relations among people at all levels, to remove obstacles, to represent the Republic when dealing with other subjects of international law, that is, independent states and international governmental organizations. Of course, besides this, we can provide support, information, etc., according to needs, but there are no powers to be shared with anyone. We also discussed the appropriateness of changing the name of the Slovak Ministry [of International Relations] because our languages distinguish between the terms "international" and "interstate", but many languages do not. This creates complications in [diplomatic] protocol matters and raises doubts abroad about the real state of affairs.

Almost everywhere, in every European country, I am asked ironic questions about our "competitor", the Slovak Ministry of International Relations. I believe that it can be explained, but it is unnecessary to invite such ironic questions, which do not enhance anyone's prestige, neither the federation's nor Slovakia's. Another matter that I consider inappropriate is that, for example, during the Slovak prime minister's visit to Italy, the Slovak Ministry of International Relations, or someone else, used the services of a private agency in Italy to organize this trip. In my opinion, a private agency can book hotel rooms and things like that, but not arrange a visit to the pope or to a prime minister. Only at the last moment, after problems emerged, did the Bratislava ministry begin to phone our embassies in Rome and the Vatican to arrange things. Such things should not happen

because they give rise to mistrust and do not contribute to Slovakia's and Slovak representatives' prestige. I understand that such things can happen due to lack of experience. For example, the Czech Government, too, was invited by an American private agency to California. At first, the government accepted the invitation. We were preparing the trip, yet, in the end, they canceled it. In such cases, one should proceed, as a matter of principle, according to the general instructions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and through our embassy there. It would be no problem then to consult some specific procedures with our Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs somewhat in advance.

Former Regime Prosecutors Investigated

AU2103135591 Prague SVOBODNE SLOVO in Czech 16 Mar 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "500 Cases of Prosecutors Being Replaced"]

[Text] Prague—More than 500 changes took place in the Office of the Prosecutor since 17 November 1989. According to the information provided by CSFR Prosecutor General I. Gasparovic at the news conference, 195 of them were changes in the leading posts. He says that most of the 200 prosecutors and investigators who left the sector participated in the unlawful acts of the former regime.

There are, however, also young prosecutors and investigators who have nothing to do with the past and who are leaving of their own will to practice law. Asked whether the criminal act of support and propaganda of fascism had not been committed during Thursday's demonstration in Bratislava, Slovak Prosecutor General V. Bacho, who was also present, replied that a team of experts was formed in Bratislava to assess the demonstration, and it would certainly deal with this issue.

Colonel M. Krizenecky, chief military prosecutor, stated, among other things, that a team of military prosecutors has not as yet found any connection between the actual course and preparations of the events of 17 November 1989, and the criminal case of F. Kincl, former federal minister of the interior, A. Lorenc, his deputy, and K. Vykypel, chief of the Counterespionage Main Administration. According to him, the testimony of the former State Security Lieutenant Ruzicka, alias Zifcak, is by far the most significant and decisive fact in the matter of 17 November. He said that the prosecution of General B. Garda of the National Security Corps has not concluded. It focuses on Garda's participation in the unlawful deportation of demonstrators from Prague. Former Federal Ministers of Finance J. Zak and L. Ler, Czechoslovak State Bank Chairmen J. Stejskal and L. Potac, V. Marek, head of the Economic Department of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee, and B. Radocha, director of the Czechoslovak State Bank Administration, are being prosecuted for abusing the powers of a public official and endangering the country's management of convertible currency. V. Bilak is being prosecuted as an instigator, and P. Colotka, former Slovak prime minister, for abusing the powers of a public official. According to information by Czech Prosecutor General L. Brunner, among the many notables of the former regime who are being prosecuted for the crime of abusing the powers of a public official are J. Piescak, former CSFR Prosecutor General, Czech Ministers F. Kalina, J. Bocek, M. Kapoun, P. Hojer, J. Nikodym, and J. Jung.

Industry To Pay 80 Percent More for Electricity

AU2003180991 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 18 Mar 91 p 2

[CTK report: "CSFR Financial Council"]

[Text] The principles of the coupon method of privatization, problems connected with the drafting of a new system of levies and taxes, electricity prices for the company sphere, and financial accounting for 1990 were discussed by the CSFR Financial Council at its meeting in Prague on Friday [15 March]. The Financial Council agreed that the registration fee for which citizens will acquire investment coupons [entitling them to purchase shares of privatized state-owned companies] should not exceed the sum of 2,000 korunas. The fee might, however, be even lower. The drafts of new taxation laws will be submitted to the governments by the end of April 1991. The electricity prices for large consumers will go up by an average of 80 percent as of 1 April 1991. Electricity prices for the public remain unchanged, however. This measure has been made necessary by the growing costs of electricity generation.

February Data Show Price Increases Slowing Down

AU2103135391 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 14 Mar 91 p 1

[Federal Statistical Office report:"Prices Are Higher But the Growth Rate Has Slowed Down"]

[Text] In February 1991, consumer prices continued to climb. The overall February price index in the CSFR increased by 55.6 percent, compared to the same period last year. Of this, the price increase caused by the liberalization of prices (that is, compared to December 1990) was 34.6 percent. This increase includes the January price increase of 25.8 percent (compared to December 1990) and another 7.0 percent price increese in February (compared to January 1991).

Compared to January, the most pronounced price increase in February, 13.9 percent, was recorded in the case of industrial goods, reflecting the fact that more products were sold at the newly established prices than in January. Food prices and, consequently, prices in the

public catering sector became virtually stable in February (they increased only insignificantly by 1 and 1.8 percent respectively) and prices for services increased by 3.6 percent.

Compared to December 1990, the most noticeable price increase in February was recorded in the public catering sector (46.3 percent) and, due to the development in February, in industrial products as well (40.0 percent). Food prices rose by 32.6 percent and prices for services by 12.4 percent. Due to the development in February, a larger price increase, compared to December 1990, was recorded in the Slovak Republic (36.9 percent) than in the Czech Republic (33.5 percent).

The increase of the cost of living indices in February 1991, compared to December 1990, did not differ significantly for individual social groups: workers and employees 31.8 percent (53.2 percent compared to the same period last year), farmers 32.8 percent (54.5 percent compared to the same period last year), and retirees 30.5 percent (51.3 percent compared to the same period last year). In February 1991, the most pronounced increase of 57.3 percent in the cost of living index, compared to the same period last year, was recorded in case of retirees (32.9 percent, compared to December last year).

Civic Democratic Party Officially Registered

LD2103093191 Prague CTK in English 1823 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Prague March 20 (CTK)—The Civic Democratic Party (ODS) was registered under this provisional name at the regional Czech Interior Ministry on March 18, ODS representatives told a press conference here today.

The ODS was formed from one of the two wings into which the Civic Forum (OF) movement split a month ago.

The constituent congress of the party will be held in the Moravian town of Olomouc on April 20, 1991.

Member of the ODS Preparatory Committee Jiri Kovac said that the party's local branches are being formed spontaneously in Moravia and Slovakia. He said that many more OF members are joining the ODS than the Civic Movement (OH), the OF successor. The Civic Forum (OF) was formed in the Czech regions of Czechoslovakia in the first days of anti-communist protests in November 1989. Together with its sister movement in Slovakia, the Public Against Violence (VPN), it won a landslide victory in the June 1990 parliamentary elections. The OF now has 119 deputies in the 300-member Federal Assembly.

ODS preparatory committee Deputy Chairman Miroslav Macek commented on the situation in the Federal Assembly. He said that deputies who joined the ODS will soon establish a deputies' club in parliament.

As to the screening of deputies, Macek said: "Information about the collaboration of deputies with the former secret police (StB) is like any other information and therefore I see no reason why it should not be published." The announcement of the names of deputies who collaborated with the StB and have not resigned is scheduled in parliament on March 22. At the start of the session the deputies will decide if the session will be opened to the public or not. The deputies concerned have been told privately about the findings and have been given 15 days to resign or face the public announcement of their involvement with the secret police.

On the basis of a suit filed by a deputy who was revealed to be a collaborator, the Prague 7 District Court ruled on March 18 that "the Federal Assembly is bound to prevent the release of any data identifying the respective deputy as an StB collaborator."

Deputies who will resign are to be replaced by candidates who ran for the same parties in the June 1990 elections and were next on the lists.

Moravian Groups Reject Havel's Constitution Draft

AU2003153391 Prague CTK in English 2140 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Brno, South Moravia, March 18 (CTK)— The transformation of Czechoslovakia into a tripartite federation in which the Moravian-Silesian Republic would be equal to the Czech and Slovak Republics was required by the participants in today's fourth Moravian-Silesian roundtable discussion here today.

Representatives of 25 political parties and movements existing in Moravia and Silesia, the central part of Czechoslovakia, rejected in a declaration adopted today the Czechoslovak president's draft for the federal constitution because it does not give Moravia and Silesia the status of an equal and constituent subject.

The participants recommend further negotiations with Slovak political representatives so that Moravian standpoints on the future setup of Czechoslovakia can be better known.

They also recommend acceleration of the work on a draft Constitution of the Moravian-Silesian Republic.

Slovak Council Views Political Problems

LD1903233391 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1815 GMT 19 Mar 91

[Statement of the Presidium of the Slovak National Council on the current political situation in Slovakia read by Council Chairman Frantisek Miklosko in Bratislava on 19 March—recorded]

[Text] The Presidium of the Slovak National Council, as the collective head of the Slovak Republic in which all

political movements and the parties of the Slovak legislature are represented, discussed the political situation in Slovakia on 19 March. It noted that the disagreements in the Public Against Violence movement and the course of actions of its individual representatives jeopardize the stability of the coalition and the normal uninterrupted work of the Government of the Slovak Republic and of the whole of society.

In this situation, the Presidum of the Slovak National Council has adopted a resolution in which it sees the first effective steps for matter-of-fact dealing with the internal situation.

The Presidium of the Slovak National Council decided to invite the prime minister and the deputy prime ministers to explain what the disagreements are. It entrusted the Defense-Security and Foreign Committees of the Slovak National Council and the extraordinary commission consisting of the members of the Presidium to objectively investigate further controversial issues.

The Presidium of the Slovak National Council expects that in this complicated situation, the Slovak Government as a whole, the prime minister, and the individual members will responsibly fulfill all tasks following from the government policy statement of July 1990, which was approved by a freely elected legislature.

We believe that the citizens of the Slovak Republic will understand how complicated the current political situation is and will by their level-headedness contribute to its peaceful solution.

Meciar Comments on Possibility of Being 'Ousted'

AU2003132391 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 15 Mar 91 p 13

[Interview with Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar by R. Vagnerova on 6 March; place not given: "May the Best Man Win: Will V. Meciar Be 'Ousted'?"—reprinted from the weekly NOVE SLOVO No. 11/1991]

[Text] [Vagnerova] Prime Minister, a proverb has it that when two dogs fight for a bone, a third will run away with it. There is a third contender on the Slovak political scene. Will he be the winner?

[Meciar] I believe that the best man ought to win. The best man will be determined by whoever wins more people to his side, by whom people trust. If the third contender looming in the background—you apparently have the Christian Democratic Movement in mind—pulls that off, it will be his success. I believe, however, that the time when the two platforms [of the Public Against Violence (VPN) movement] have separated is optimal for them to be able to organize and get ready for the next elections. Even a coalition between the two platforms in the next election period cannot be ruled out. The development is still ahead of us and it will be very interesting. Let us wait to see what its outcome will be. No one can be excluded from the political scene.

[Vagnerova] There is talk behind the scenes to the effect that Meciar will be "ousted" from the post of prime minister. Is such an intention on the horizon?

[Meciar] I had to realistically expect something like that even earlier because I saw what was being done, what methods were being used, and what pressure was being brought to bear on me. It is paradoxical that I am the Slovak prime minister protected by the Office for the Protection of Constitutional Officials and suddenly this office and I personally discover that yet other, unidentified cars are shadowing me. When I asked that the owner of that car be verified, I received a report saying that it was a car of the security forces' shadowing service from another region, which has been fulfilling the assignment of shadowing me with great initiative. I know about some provocations that had been prepared and worked out and that were to be materialized. In other words, the intention to "oust" Meciar dates further back; it has been worked upon at various levels for some time. I am not after functions. I am doing my job, and when I am told that I am not to do that job any longer, I will say thank you and go. I will not lose much personally. But those who have an interest in power can never count on being able to take up their posts without being unmasked, without the public being given a chance to get to know them.

[Vagnerova] A certain basic line of the new [VPN] platform has apparently been devised already. Which gap in the Slovak political spectrum will it try to fill?

[Meciar] I see in the VPN For a Democratic Slovakia platform the continuation of the policy that I have been enacting thus far. It is interesting that the platform is being regarded as a deviation. The truth is, however, that the platform continues to follow a straight course where the VPN Council has deflected. We regard ourselves as the bearers of the original idea of November [1989], for which all of us were fighting then in a cultured fashion. Whom will the public follow? Let it be guided by common sense and by the heart. The public will always be able to find out who expresses its interests.

[Vagnerova] How do you see the possibilities of cooperation between the two currents of opinion [within the VPN]?

[Meciar] They remain on the platform of a single program. Views that have existed, and been maturing, for a longer time have now found an organizational expression. What is involved, in essence, is another test of the ability to work with people having a different opinion or a different way of conducting talks because some methods are not quite acceptable. Let us wait a see whether we manage to constitute a body that would act united toward the coalition, while each platform would be independent in its internal affairs.

Carnogursky on Political Situation in Slovkia

AU2103204891 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 19 Mar 91 p 3

[CTK report: "J. Carnogursky: The Reservations Do Not Warrant Resignation"]

[Text] After yesterday's meeting of the Slovak Republic Government Presidium, several ministers and members of the Slovak Republic Government granted interviews to CTK and Slovak Radio on the present political situation in Slovakia.

Jan Carnogursky, first deputy prime minister of the Slovak Republic, did not deny the fact that he has some critical reservations about the work of Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar. However, he did not want to talk about them before addressing them to the prime minister himself. "That would be incorrect," he said.

Jan Carnogursky made the prime minister's remaining in his post conditional on his ability to execute his office for the benefit of the republic and on his ability to preside over the government. "I am unable to tell you at this moment whether our potential reservations might warrant Vladimir Meciar's resignation; I would even say that our reservations alone would not warrant it."

Jan Carnogursky rejected the claim that there had been discussions on the premises of the Christian Democratic Movement about the person of the next prime minister, who, according to this claim, should be a member of this movement.

Asked about the Slovak prime minister's recent visit to the Soviet Union, the first deputy prime minister said, among other things, that he had known about the visit about one month in advance but that he did not learn the details and the exact date until only a few days prior to the visit. "As far as I know, the Soviet side fixed this date at short notice, only a few days before the visit."

KDH 'Not Interested' in Meciar's Downfall

LD2103152591 Prague CTK in English 1458 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Bratislava March 21 (CTK)—Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) Chairman Jan Carnogursky told newsmen here today that [the] KDH is not interested in the fall of Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar although it has critical remarks on the style of his work.

The Slovak first deputy premier said that [the] KDH does not intend to fill the post of premier. It would do so only if the stands of individual parties and movements were contradictory to an extent that they would be unable to agree on a solution, Carnogursky said on the present situation in Slovakia.

He went on to say that [the] KDH does not want early parliamentary elections to be called. It wants that members of the present Slovak government, even with some changes, work until the end of their terms of office, he added.

He spoke about his yesterday's visit to Austria and his meetings with President of the Nationalrat of the Austrian parliament Heinz Fischer and President Kurt Waldheim. He pointed out Austria's attitude towards its president saying that Austria adhered to its constitution despite internal and external attacks on the president. This example is valuable from the point of view of the present situation in Slovakia, Carnogursky said.

This situation will not influence the willingness of Italian commercial circles to invest in the Slovak Republic, the KDH chairman said referring to last week's visit by the Slovak government delegation to Italy.

He said on a referendum on the constitutional setup of Czechoslovakia that this vote need not truly reflect the will of the people. KDH deputies will vote for the approval of the law on a referendum but it is highly important that the question be put in the right way, Jan Carnogursky stated.

Carnogursky Outlines KDH Positions

LD2103173691 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1100 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Interview with Christian Democratic Movement Chairman Jan Carnogursky by Ivan Kosec in Bratislava on 21 March—recorded]

[Excerpt] Christian Democratic Movement [KDH] Chairman Jan Carnogursky described at a news conference in Bratisalva today the KDH stand on the current situation in Slovakia with a 51:49 ratio in favor of Prime Minister Meciar. The prime minister, however, should be more careful regarding facts and figures, Jan Carnogursky said. He also criticized him for flirting with the use of methods outside parliamentary ones. Editor Ivan Kosec asked Jan Carnogursky a few questions after the news conference ended:

[Kosec] You met Prime Minister Meciar this morning. What did you talk about?

[Carnogursky] Prime Minister Meciar was interested in the KDH standpoint on the current situation. I have informed him that our members of the commission of the Slovak National Council will present, at the talks of the commission, some specific objections to his work, or demand a concrete explanation on concrete objections. If he is able to explain things in a matter-of-fact way, it is alright.

We are not trying to remove Prime Minister Meciar from his office. We want to see a government in Slovakia that is able to govern, and it is not our momentary aim to replace the prime minister. However, if it happened—

and not because of us—that the government was not able to function, then we would perhaps also apply our claim to the office of prime minister. I repeat, this would happen only if the government ceased to be functional and not because of us. At the moment I am unable to quote any specific criticisms apart from those that I have already presented, but I think they are important enough. In my view the prime minister should speak publicly and present a greater number of specific arguments supporting the solution that he is proposing, and these arguments should be of a matter-of-fact nature.

[Kosec] You have said that you are not interested in the chair of prime minister and that you are not interested in early legislative elections, but on the other hand, you admitted the possibility of certain changes in the Slovak Government. Could you tell us in specific terms what you had in mind?

[Carnogursky] No, I am not able to answer your question in specific terms, because I think nobody else can either. The Tuesday session of the Slovak Government went well, and the government was able to agree on all points of the agenda. To tell you the truth, after yesterday's session of the Slovak National Council, I started to doubt whether the government in this composition will be able to work. The ministers from the KDH will do their best to make it possible for the government to work in this composition, but the controversies between the individual platforms of the Public Against Violence seemed to me too great. It is, however, not in our power to influence these controversies or to solve them. They can be solved only by a kind of coalition talk. Our aim is to insure that the Slovak Government in power is sufficiently supported by the legislature.

[Kosec] The KDH is currently the strongest political force in Slovakia. What chances and what responsibility does the situation bring to the movement?

[Carnogursky] The KDH has always felt itself to be a guarantee of autonomous independent Slovak policy even when we were not the strongest political movement. We have now become the strongest political movement, not only as a result of the errors of other movements but, I think, also due to the correctness of our political line, and we want to continue in this political line. We want to continue to create the state legislative setup of Czechoslovakia, the common Republic of the Czechs and the Slovaks, in such a way that both republics—and eventually Moravia too—feel themselves at home in it and have their own authentic position in it, and that the federal bodies carry out only those functions that the republics are not really able to carry out well enough on their own. Simply, we shall continue in this line and we shall try to win over other political parties and movements to follow it.

[Kosec] Yesterday you took part, along with Mr. Miklosko and Mr. Zemko in—according to CTK—an unofficial visit to Austria. I have a feeling that the general public was not well enough informed about this trip.

[Carnogursky] As it was a private visit, we did not consider it important to inform people about it in detail beforehand. [passage omitted]

The Austrian side is interested in current events in Slovakia, but it does not want to interfere in any way. It is possible that it is interested in the development of the political situation in Slovakia also because it is considering the chances of closing down the nuclear power station in Jaslovske Bohunice.

[Kosec] Now really the last question. On Saturday the KDH council will be in session. What will be the key point on its agenda?

[Carnogursky] It will be more or less a general debate on the political situation in Slovakia, on the KDH position on this situation, and on the KDH's ideas on the way it ought to be solved. I personally shall not be at the session because I shall be abroad.

Slovak Parties Surveyed on Recalling Meciar

AU2103205591

[Editorial Report] Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 19 March on page 2, under the headline "Do You Have Confidence in the Slovak Prime Minister?" publishes a 900-word CTK summary of answers given by representatives of the decisive political forces and movements to the question: "If it were entirely up to your party, movement (platform), would you express confidence in Vladimir Meciar, Slovak Republic prime minister, would you demand that he be recalled, or what other form of action would you choose?"

Milan Letko, general secretary of the Slovak National Party, replies "It is with concern that we follow the gradation of the campaign against Vladimir Meciar," and he proceeds by saying that although they had disagreements in the past, "this campaign is a part of a broadly conceived action to discredit a part of the Slovak political representation and bring about a change in the ratio of forces existing in the Slovak Government in favor of Prague centralists."

Peter Weiss, chairman of the Party of the Democratic Left, says that he considers "the approach chosen by the Public Against Violence movement to be undemocratic." Moreover, he adds that in a democratic society, a prime minister should be recalled on the basis of "a thorough analysis of his following the government policy statement, or proofs that he violated his oath and not on the basis of personal empathy or antipathy."

According to Sergej Michalic, press secretary of the Public Against Violence Coordinating Center, "It is a hypothetical question because one cannot proceed any other way but as the Public Against Violence Slovak Council did—it expressed its political opinion, turned to deputies with specific concerns, and it is up to them to objectively deal with the data provided to them."

Jan Petrik, general secretary of the Christian Democratic Movement, replied that although Meciar is not very fond of the Christian Democratic Movement, his movement has not and would not move for the prime minister's recall, but if someone makes such a motion, they will make a decision to the best of their knowledge and conscience having the interests of the Slovak Republic and its people in mind.

Peter Sabo, chairman of the Slovak Coordination Committee of the Green Party, feels that "internal problems of the Public Against Violence movement should not be brought into the legislature and government, thereby destabilizing society." Specifically on the issue of recalling Meciar, he says: "Any member of the government can be recalled only on the basis of specific arguments, and not because of narrow party interests or personal invective."

Svetozar Korbel, chairman of the Slovak Republic Assembly of the Confederation of Trade Unions, replies that Slovak trade unionists know well who stood up in their defense in word as well as in deed, and he adds that "according to public opinion surveys, Meciar has the support of 85 percent of voters. Who wants to tamper with this, and how?"

Meciar's VPN Faction Issues Statement

AU2103202291 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 19 Mar 91 p 2

[CTK report: "Let Us Be Guided by Our Conscience"]

[Text] Bratislava— Representatives of the Public Against Violence [VPN]-For a Democratic Slovakia platform from the Interparliamentary Club of Federal Assembly and Slovak National Council Deputies and from the Regional Club met in Bratislava yesterday. This was announced by Slovak Radio in its Radio Journal program last night. The participants in the meeting adopted a statement, which states, among other things:

The Slovak public is exposed to a political atmosphere that is being deliberately dramatized by some leading VPN representatives. The unsubstantiated and groundless challenge to the policy of the Slovak prime minister and of members of the Slovak Republic Government to which we are bearing witness is tantamount, in the present complex situation, to a challenge to the efforts at a sovereign Slovak policy. We therefore appeal to deputies to the Slovak National Council for the VPN and other political parties and movements to let themselves be guided by their conscience and by the opinion of their voters, should a motion of no-confidence in the Slovak Republic Government and its prime minister be tabled.

At the same time we appeal to VPN Clubs, VPN District Councils, and VPN Committees to make their stand public and to demand that their deputies communicate this stand in the Slovak National Council.

Finally, we appeal to citizens to dissociate themselves openly and in a cultured way from provocateurs propagating fascism or fascist history because these activities do not have any broader support in Slovakia and are being misused against the intensive and consistent efforts of the Slovak Republic Government and the prime minister at establishing a democratic image of Slovakia in Europe.

Havel Blamed for Incident With Demonstrators

AU2003081991 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 15 Mar 91 p 2

[Jan Fuele commentary: "President's Error?"]

[Text] Yesterday's visit by President Vaclav Havel to Slovakia might be characterized as a visit of coincidences. Considering its date [coinciding with the 52d anniversary of the founding of the independent Slovak state] and the events that preceded it [reference to demonstrations by nationalist forces in Bratislava], the president started the visit very unfortunately—by visiting the command of the Eastern Military District in Trencin. After a meeting with Slovak economists, he received a delegation of students, who included a large delegation of the increasingly well-known student biweekly, ECHO. His meeting with other Slovak journalists was, unfortunately, much shorter and much more improvised.

What happened shortly before 1800 at the Slovak National Uprising Square can be described as V. Havel's biggest error as president. Accompanied by a few participants, his advisers, and Slovak National Council Chairman F. Miklosko, he crossed the square to where a rally by those who decided to celebrate the 52d anniversary of the founding of the Slovak state was in progress. It needs to be added that their rally was in a state of drowsiness then and that its end was being artificially delayed by speeches that were empty of meaning and by a group of people whose chanting, thanks to appropriately situated loudspeakers, was resounding throughout the square.

The highest representative of the state thus suddenly found himself in the midst of an atmosphere that was ill disposed toward the federation and the head of state. Those dissatisfied with the drowsy mood of the rally set upon the company of the president, who was only feebly protected by his bodyguards against fists shaken in his face, spittles, and strikes with flag staffs. Everything ended in the best possible way, no matter how paradoxical this may sound—with the president's company fleeing to their cars, which were ready in front of the Slovak National Council building, with assistance from the raging crowd, which was at least able to kick the shiny limousines.

The evening radio newscast spoke about a group of skinheads and a later radio program about a group of young people. The truth is that one of the most active

among them was a grandma of at least 70 years, who was striking the president's limousine with her fists like mad. These were simply people who regard such a method of self-realization as optimal. It is astonishing, to say the least, that the president of the Republic set out to meet them and that neither his advisers nor the chairman of the Slovak National Council, who should have a clearer view of the situation, persuaded him not to do it. It is a fact that, when in Prague, Vaclav Havel never takes a walk among the screaming Republicans of [Chairman of the Republican Party] Doctor Sladek because he simply knows that nothing good would await him there.

In the president's very important speech in the evening, no mention was made of this incident. It was really a speech by "a Czech who feels himself to be an understanding friend of the Slovak nation." All the more startling is the mutual misunderstanding that preceded this speech, and not only this speech.

Havel's Conduct, TV Speech Criticized

AU2003143391 Bratislava SMENA in Slovak 18 Mar 91 p 2

[Robert Kotian commentary: "To Vaclav Havel About Vaclav Havel"]

[Excerpts] Last week confirmed what we have long suspected, and spelled out on more than one occasion—that even the president can be wrong, and that on several counts.

If we accept as correct and warranted Slovak National Council Chairman F. Miklosko's statement about Vaclav Havel as a "man of great stature," in this specific case [of his visit to Bratislava] the president did not confirm this great stature. I find it hard to accept his words [about the assault on him by Bratislava demonstrators on 14 March] that "It was a rather interesting experience." These words smack rather unpleasantly of too great concentration on one's own image, without considering the consequences of one's conduct for others—for example, from the viewpoint of how a possible incident might tarnish the reputation of the entire Slovak nation, despite the fact that such violent behavior [as displayed by the young people who assailed the president during his visit to Slovakia] is characteristic of only a negligible percentage of Slovak citizens. I gladly believe the president's words that he was not afraid [to meet the Bratislava demonstrators for Slovak independence], but he should have perhaps realized the anxiety of his surroundings. He should have perhaps realized that, in many of us, the fear for the president was combined with concern about the reputation and future of the Slovak nation. [passage omitted]

The number of Slovak citizens who have apologized to the president is formidable, but some of them would perhaps also deserve satisfaction from him.

Much more serious are my objections to his rather clear statement [in the television address to Slovaks on 14 March] regarding the formulation of the question in a possible referendum. According to the president, the Slovaks should decide between a functioning federation or an independent state. It seems to me rather tactless to put the question in this way as we should decide between a federation, about which we have many reservations (which are reaffirmed by the president's ideas about the constitution), and something that many of us do not want. The president does not give us much choice. Instead, I would tend to endorse the view of Professor J. Boguszak, published in the Saturday [16 March] issue of LIDOVE NOVINY. According to J. Boguszak, the referendum question could be formulated as follows—Do you agree with the secession of the Czech Republic, or the Slovak Republic, from the CSFR? Not only would the question of coexistence not have to be forcibly tied up with the form of this coexistence, because some Slovaks are driven into a corner by such a formulation, but opportunities would be opened for the search for an optimal variant of coexistence between Czechs, Slovaks, and ethnic minorities. I believe that the president does not quite accurately distinguish between some subtle nuances in Slovak political life, nuances that are important to many Slovaks. Not to mention the fact that the president's formulation need not suit even many inhabitants of the Czech Republic, such as the Moravians. But that is an altogether different problem.

New Head of Meciar's Secretariat Appointed

AU2103173191

[Editorial Report] Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 19 March on page 2, in the "News" column, carries a 100-word unattributed report on the 18 March meeting of the Slovak Republic Government Presidium. The report mentions that the Presidium appointed Engineer Ivan Lexa new head of the Slovak Prime Minister's Secretariat.

Goncz on Prospects of Joining Common Market

LD2003231291 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1700 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Interview with President Arpad Goncz by Julia Torda at Budapest airport upon the president's return from Belgium; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Torda] Mr. President, just before you left, you said that Hungary wants to join the Common Market when this is most suitable for both parties. What did you experience, what would be the most suitable date for the Western party?

[Goncz] No one can tell. If an underdeveloped country gets in, which is not compatible and cannot protect itself, then it will be choked. The most important thing for us is to obtain associate membership, which can lead to the rest. The way it looks, this might come about in January, if not during the course of the following year. I do not dare to assign a date to our actual, real joining; the question is completely open. All those I have been talking to warned us not to be hasty. [CSFR President] Havel said he hopes that it will take place by 1996. Somewhat disbelieving voices could be heard in reply to this saying that it is likely to take place a bit later than that.

Look, there is asymmetry here, for the internal structure of these countries is not the same. The greatest problem for us is the agricultural issue, for we cannot afford to offer Hungarian agriculture as a sacrifice. If we do it too early, we shall be defenseless.

[Torda] You also mentioned prior to your trip that the Hungarian economy showed greater flexibility last year than could have been expected. Today's FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG publishes an article severely critical of Hungary. Is it possible that the prestige of Hungary is declining?

[Goncz] I did not feel this is Brussels. Anyway, I have read American articles that foresee double-digit growth by the mid-1990's. Let us hope to God that they are right! I have also read articles that talk about the collapse of the Eastern European economies the day after tomorrow, let us hope they are wrong. I did not go [to Brussels] because Hungary's prestige has diminished but because it has increased.

President Goncz Interviewed on Future Expectations

AU2103133791 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 18 Mar 91 p 5

[Interview with President Arpad Goncz by Peter Vajda at the National Assembly on 16 March: "One Should Also Accept and Defend Minority Views"—first paragraph is NEPSZABADSAG introduction]

[Text] President Arpad Goncz gave a short interview to NEPSZABADSAG after conferring Kossuth and Szechenyi prizes in the National Assembly on 16 March.

[Vajda] Mr. President! There is a festive atmosphere here and your program is festive too: Appearance in the National Assembly, the Museum Square, and the Petofi Memorial. A new week will start soon, however. What do you expect from the future? Will division and tensions increase before the emergence of a social consensus?

[Goncz] Naturally, I wish the aforementioned tension were over and Hungary were an open and joyous country with increasing prosperity. I have noticed that well-functioning democracies generally emerge in prosperous societies. In the current situation, I think we still have to wait until we reach a level of prosperity in which politics are no longer vital for the citizens concerned with their own problems.

[Vajda] In other words?

[Goncz] Our life is overpoliticized today, and this is quite understandable. I am aware of the psychological and financial roots of the entire unfortunate tension. We must overcome this period and reach an upward stage.

[Vajda] What happens until then?

[Goncz] Until then, it is essential that one should at least feel at home, even if one does not feel well. There should be no difference between citizens, and bourgeois thinking should be asserted; this also means that man is independent. A dependent expects everything from above and blames the king if things are different. A real citizen sees things on the bright side, cooperates with others, joins a party, and expresses his concern: He somehow represents his own view. It is a personal obligation to acknowledge and protect minority views in a democracy, because it cannot be excluded that the minority might become the majority the next day.

Reporters Briefed on FKgP Leader's Dismissal

LD2103143391 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] This morning Independent Smallholders' Party [FKgP] MP's informed journalists about the background to the dismissal of Jozsef Torgyan, about the conditions for electing the new faction leader, and about the details of the three-parties' pact signed yesterday. Our reporter is Janos Hollos.

[Hollos] Prime Minister Jozsef Antall had no influence over the FKgP in the removal of faction leader Jozsef Torgyan. This charge had been rejected in the strongest terms by MP Kalman Vincze, who tabled the no confidence motion. He explained that he conceived the idea of no confidence after the speech delivered by Dr. Torgyan at the College of Physical Education. He felt that today a government party should not set stirring up emotions as its first task, but should conduct balanced politics free from extremism. As is well known, Jozsef

Torgyan announced his independent comprehensive economic policy program Way Out of the Bankruptcy—at this ominous college meeting. This the audience received with steady applause, and shouts of Torgyan, Torgyan.

By the way, in the removal of Dr. Torgyan, it also played a part that under his leadership the work of the group of MP's had become fragmented. It is also very likely that the exceptionally large number of MP's commitments also contributed to this. Since his removal, the work of the faction is said to have improved spectacularly.

The elections yesterday for faction leader were unsuccessful for one reason only—they raised the requirement too high: 50 percent plus one vote would have been required to elect the new leader. This was not received by any of the candidates.

It was also stated at the news briefing that the coalition agreement on the compensation bill was signed yesterday. The general secretary of the party emphasized, in connection with this, that the observation is justified that in the three-parties' agreement, the balance for real estate is disturbed in favor of productive land. The comment on this was that in politics, compromises are not always proportional—it is obvious that residents in the towns were the victims of this disproportionality.

National Assembly Agrees To Revise Pensions

LD2003223391 Budapest MTI in English 1518 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Budapest, March 20 (MTI)—The Hungarian parliament has accepted the bill providing for on the revision of certain pensions and the withdraw of certain pension supplements with a vast majority on Wednesday.

The bill invalidates a 1988 decree of the council of ministers according to which retired leaders of the state are entitled to pensions equal to the net salaries of present-day leaders in the same positions. In accordance with the bill, such pensions and those established by the one-time Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (HSWP) [MSZMP], are to cease as from June 30, 1991.

Another paragraph of the bill concerns pension supplements linked to certain decorations and early-retirement pay. In this field, the first step was taken by the government of then prime minister of Hungary Miklos Nemeth, when secret government resolutions on special pensions and allowances were invalidated in January 1990. These government resolutions guaranteed certain privileges for fighters of the workers' movement, and for holders of decorations given on the basis of political merit. The 1990 measure invalidated these privileges but did not change the actual pension sums.

The present bill declares decoration-holders, rights to pension supplements null and void, at the same time guaranteeing an allowance, equal to the sum of the supplement, for all those who had received their decorations for their achievements and merits in the field of science, sports, arts or in the fight against fascism.

MPs agreed that by July 1, 1991, the government should submit a proposal to parliament for a the uniform system of recognition and provision for those having participated in national and anti-fascist resistance movements.

Assembly Approves Health, Social Subsidy Bills

LD2103092191 Budapest MTI in English 1934 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Budapest, March 20 (MTI)—In its plenary session on Wednesday, parliament approved the law on the state health service and the medical officer's service. The law regulates division of labour between the central and local governments in the fields of public health and epidemics control. The law declares that these activities are directed and controlled by the state.

Subsequently, the MPS [expansion unknown] approved a resolution on the central subsidies to be granted to social organisations this year. Parliament earmarked 400 million forints for the purpose. (from the 600 organisations who applied for subsidies, 172 successful applicants were selected by the ad hoc committee in charge.) The funds were divided between societies and social organisations working in four fields: Health, youth and child protection, environmental protection, and culture and sport. Political organisations were granted no access. Parliament closed its plenary session at six o'clock.

Investment Promotion Fund To Be Implemented

LD2103113791 Budapest MTI in English 0956 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Budapest, March 21, 1991 (MTI-ECONEWS)—The Hungarian Ministry of International Relations has announced the conditions of availability of money from the investment promotion fund. The fund was created by the Hungarian Government to promote foreign investment in Hungary. The fund is operated by Mier in conjunction with local governments, ministries and representation organizations.

Applications for fund support will be accepted only from partly or wholly foreign-owned companies wishing to carry out infrastructural development in connection with existing or planned activities. Companies intending to apply should have equity capital in excess of 50 million forints, the foreign stake has to be at least 30 per cent and convertible cash contribution to the venture at least 50 per cent. In exceptional cases, for example, if the company wishes to implement a development project which involves the introduction of high technology, or if the project will take place in a region where the company is eligible for tax relief, applications may be accepted even if the convertible cash contribution does not reach 50 per cent of the capital.

The fund has a budget of 1.5 billion forints for 1991, all of which is to be disbursed in support of infrastructural development projects connected with specific production ventures. In cases which are of special importance for the national economy, fund money will be granted to finance the acquisition of state property. Some 500 million forints are available in the competition for which bids must be entered before April 30. The maximum amount of support available from the investment promotion fund is 20 per cent of the total cost of the infrastructural development project, or 100 million forints. Support from the fund will not have to be repaid.

Loans, however, will also be granted from the fund to finance local infrastructural development, on terms of 7-year maturity, two years, grace period, with interest rates adjusted to central bank refinancing rates. A further condition of receiving fund support is that the value of state property acquired with fund money does not exceed 20 per cent of the equity capital of the company. The competition bids will be judged every three months.

Horn Disavows 'Misrepresented' Remarks on Debt

LD2103094191 Budapest MTI in English 1859 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Budapest, March 20 (MTI)—In the Wednesday press conference of the Hungarian Socialist Party (HSP) [MSZP], Gyula Horn, HSP president and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of parliament, qualified his statements concerning Hungary's debt service, which he claimed had been misrepresented in Monday's "THE FINANCIAL TIMES." The British daily quoted Horn as saying at an international conference in Vienna that the members of the Hungarian Government were divided over the ways of handling the state's debts (application for cancellation, rescheduling, or further payment). As reported on Tuesday, the Hungarian Government spokesman disavowed the remarks quoted by "THE FINANCIAL TIMES," and affirmed that the Hungarian Government was of one mind entirely that the state debts would have to be repaid in due course. The Republic of Hungary remains a reliable partner in international economic and business life, the spokesman said.

Gyula Horn said today that his contribution to the Bankers' World Conference in Vienna had been misrepresented. What he said was that the Hungarian Government was adamant about fulfilling its debt servicing obligations—though public opinion was divided over the issue. He did not say that the government was divided.

As for the debt servicing, Horn called for a new approach and new way of thinking. He said creditors should consider allowing part of Hungary's debts to be cancelled, since the exorbitant interest it was paying meant that it had effectively repaid its loans. If current trends continue, Horn argued, no funds would be left for financing Hungary's internal economic development. He added that rescheduling was out of the question since it would procrastinate rather than solve the problems.

Referring to international experience, Horn recalled that at several places abroad sizeable portions of debts had been converted into shares in the course of privatisation. Horn considered it conceivable that the outstanding debts of private banks to Hungary could be taken over by the states and governments. He expressed the conviction that Hungary might find partners in reducing its debt servicing and the related burdens.

MNB Chairman on Independence, Foreign Credits

AU2103102691 Budapest MTI in English 1148 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Budapest, 20 March (MTI-ECONEWS)—The National Bank of Hungary (NBH) [MNB] is sufficiently independent, and will get the guarantees to ensure its independence if the government approves the Central Bank Act, probably in two weeks' time, and Parliament passes it, Gyorgy Suranyi, NBH president, told the Wednesday edition of the Budapest daily the "MAGYAR HIRLAP".

The NBH president told the paper the fact that the ratio of Hungary's debts from short-term credits has decreased was a positive development.

On foreign credit interest rates, he said that so far this year, Hungary's interest burden has been on the decrease.

The NBH reckons that this burden will now probably not reach the amount forecast in preliminary calculations.

Credit interest rates average about 8 per cent. Dollar and pound interest rates have diminished recently. The effect of raised Deutsche Mark interests will not necessarily make itself felt this year, thanks to banking operations aimed at covering the interests, Suranyi said.

By March 8, 1991, the NBH had paid 230 million USD in interest on Hungary's gross debts of about 21 billion USD.

Preliminary figures suggest that the country's interest payment obligations are expected to be around 1.4 billion USD in 1991.

The liberalization of foreign trade and foreign trade commercial banks in their efforts to finance various deals abroad without the intermediary of the central bank.

Mr Suranyi deemed the inflation figure this year in Hungary considerably more favourable than general expectations had predicted, and added it will perhaps be lower this month than it was last March.

Reports by Hungary's Central Statistics Office indicate that inflation is expected to be between 35 and 36 per cent in the country in 1991, while it was 29.7 per cent last year.

The NBH president mentioned that the Central Bank had announced credit auctions for commercial banks.

and that the ratio of the NBH's export-import-related credit arrangements and open market transactions is set to grow.

The National Bank of Hungary is also financing long-term export- boosting investment projects, and will grant additional 50-per-cent refinancing if investment costs are recouped within three years of implementation, Mr Suranyi said.

Military Officers Limited on Training Abroad

LD2003101791 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0600 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Interview with Colonel Gyorgy Keleti by Gabor Kereszti; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] There are many opportunities for the training of Hungarian military officers in the West, but these are being utilized minimally so far.

[Kereszti] During the past when various Western military delegations were visiting Hungary, an agreement was almost always reached according to which, in the countries concerned—England, France, most recently Switzerland, or Canada— Hungarian military officers can take part in further training. Are there Hungarian military officers in these countries? How many, and where?

[Keleti] Yes there are presently two Hungarian officers abroad, in the West, if I can put it this way. One is in England at a military academy, taking part in a one-year course; the other is in Germany, currently on a technical language induction course. In addition, there are the usual traditional courses and teaching programs in the Soviet Union in Poland, where the technical training for Hungarian officers takes place, mainly on Soviet technical equipment. The truth is that this opening that the leaders of the defense portfolio expected is slower, but the readiness to issue invitations is very great on the part of several countries. For example the Germans wants more than the present one officer, the United States also made an offer, and we have an invitation from France as well. There is an invitation from Austria for joint training of the UN peace-keeping forces, but the financial limitations hamper the opportunities for Hungarian officers to take part in such further training.

[Kereszti] Why? Are these various scholarships and further trainings not financed by the Western partners?

[Keleti] Yes, but whatever scholarships a Hungarian officer receives to a Western military academy, some pocket money still must be provided. Provisions must be made for him to come home from time to time to visit his family. At the same time, it is an undisputable fact that the language causes problems.

[Kereszti] Now that there are opportunities, what can you do so these will be made better use of in the future?

[Keleti] We are expecting that the country will get out of this difficult economic situation, even if not in one year, but in a relatively short time. This will mean that the defense portfolio will have greater possibilities.

Soviet Ambassador Comments on Troop Withdrawal

AU2203094891 Budapest MTI in English 1402 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Budapest, 21 March (MTI)—The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary is proceeding according to schedule, in compliance with the inter-governmental agreement.

More than 75 percent of all personnel, 90 percent of all tanks, 87 percent of all artillery, all military helicopters and 45 percent of all planes have already been withdrawn, the Thursday issue of the daily MAGYAR HIRLAP reported in an interview with the Soviet Ambassador to Budapest Ivan Aboimov.

As regards matters still to be resolved related to the troop withdrawals, Aboimov said:

"There are still some financial problems. We have built lots of flats, schools, health care institutions, and other buildings at our own expense at places where Soviet troops were stationed. These buildings are to remain here and will become the property of the Hungarian authorities. We consider it a just claim to receive some kind of compensation for them. It is, however, only natural that the Soviet side will pay due attention to Hungarian needs as well.

"Unfortunately, there has still been no progress in this respect within our talks. I do not wish to go into the details as regards to the reasons why, but I think the chances are we will not be able to settle financial problems by the time the troop withdrawals have been completed.

"At the same time, we must be aware that in case there still are unsettled financial problems by the time the troop withdrawals have been completed, forcing one of the sides to take unilateral steps, this will have an unfavourable effect on Soviet-Hungarian relations."

Speaking about Soviet-Hungarian ties, Aboimov stated:

"Due to several reasons, we still have to cooperate closely because whatever changes come about in our two countries, there are basic objective factors that link us together."

Details of Soviet Oil Imports Provided

LD2103113691 Budapest MTI in English 0924 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Budapest, March 21, 1991 (MTIECONEWS)—Hungary has been importing 400,000 tonnes of crude oil a month so far this year, 30-40 per cent of which came

from the Soviet Union. The remainder was Mediterranean crude. Hungary's Soviet crude imports amounted to 170,000 tonnes in January and 140,000 tonnes in February. One hundred and forty thousand tonnes is also to come in from the Soviet Union in March. Total Hungarian crude imports are to amount to between 6 and 6.5 million tonnes this year, with the Soviet Union to remain the number one supplier.

Since oil imports were liberalized in Hungary with effect January 1 this year, the Hungarian Oil and Gas Trust (OKGT) has joined Mineralimpex, the former monopoly importer in the country, in importing crude. Mineralimpex already had a contract for the import of 2 million tonnes of Soviet crude, and secured another 500,000 tonnes a few weeks ago. The OKGT has similarly ordered 500,000 tonnes of Soviet oil.

Since Soviet imports remain the cheapest option because of the low cost of transport via the friendship pipeline, both Mineralimpex and the OKGT are seeking to meet as much of the country's import needs as possible from the Soviet Union. Mineralimpex is in direct talks with Bashkiria and the Ukraine about oil imports, but complains that the Soviet barter ban is hampering these discussions considerably. The company is hopeful, though, that even if they drag on, the talks will eventually be successful. Even if some sort of agreement is reached, it has first to be approved by the Soviet central government. Only in this way can it be guaranteed that the Soviet oil will actually reach Hungary through the pipeline.

Defense Minister, Polish Counterpart End Talks

LD2103093891 Budapest MTI in English 1918 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Budapest, March 20 (MTI)—Vice Admiral Piotr Kolodziejczyk, Polish minister of national defense, who has been paying a three-day official visit to Hungary, and Lajos Fur, Hungarian minister of defence, held a press conference on Wednesday. Both ministers were satisfied about the outcome of their talks, with special regard to the agreement concluded on bilateral military cooperation.

Fur emphasized that the agreement was concluded for five years but it would be automatically prolonged for another five years if neither party wished to terminate it. The agreement envisages a permanent exchange of information between the two armies, and the maintenance of ties on the basis of mutual confidence.

Piotr Kolodziejczyk emphasized that the dissolution of the Warsaw Treaty's military structure had only created a new situation at a formal level, since the dependencies established over the decades would make their effects felt for a while. The new type of military cooperation would have special implications for scientific work, training, and the exploration of markets and joint sources of supplies, the Polish minister said.

The two ministers agreed that the road towards European security would entail a set of such agreements. Piotr Kolodziejczyk left Budapest on Wednesday evening.

Walesa Meets With Bush, Baker in Washington

LD2103133891 Warsaw PAP in English 2316 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Washington, March 20—President Lech Walesa began his official visit to the United States today at 10 a.m. The Polish state leader was welcomed at the lawn in front of the White House by President of the United States George Bush. Present were both presidents' wives and persons accompanying Lech Walesa, among them Ministers of Foreign Affairs Krzysztof Skubiszewski, Foreign Economic Relations Dariusz Ledworowski, Ownership Transformations Janusz Lewandowski, Internal Affairs Henryk Majewski, Industry Andrzej Zawislak, Secretary of State in the Presidential Office Slawomir Siwek, Vice-Minister of Finance Janusz Sawicki, and Polish Ambassador to the United States Kazimierz Dziewanowski.

The U.S. participants in the ceremony included: Vice-President Dan Quayle, Secretary of State James Baker, Chief of the White House Staff John Sununu, National Security Adviser General Brent Scowcroft, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Colin Powell, congressmen, and other personalities.

A military band played both countries national anthems and the presidents inspected the troops. Then both delivered speeches.

After the arrival ceremony both presidents walked to the Oval Office in the White House where they had a conversation in private. About a quarter of an hour later they were joined by other Polish and American personalities. The talks ended with the signing of a declaration on relations between Poland and the United States.

Next the Polish president held talks in the Department of State with its head James Baker. Other members of the official Polish delegation also took part in the talks.

After the talks Lech Walesa and James Baker met with journalists for a brief press conference. The secretary of state stressed that for the United States Poland was a country of great importance as an example of democratization and market economy. It is highly important that Poland succeeds on its road of pluralism and free market economy. Also for this reason the United States spared no efforts to win a considerable reduction of the Polish debt in the Paris Club.

Baker said that the United States will continue seeking further assistance for Poland from international institutions and motioning in Congress for more help to Poland.

President Lech Walesa said: I am proud to be able to thank America for all the good that Poland has so far experienced. Reforms which are taking place in the post-communist Europe are especially well understood here. Our difficulties and problems are well understood by President Bush and Minister Baker. I hope this understanding will be followed by aid to those of our reforms which are in jeopardy today.

Our today's troubles consist in the fact that we had expected greater engagement of foreign business. In all the post-communist countries, especially in Poland, there is big business to be done. The understanding on the part of present U.S. leaders meets our expectations halfway. This time we are ashamed to ask for help. The entire American nation is doing a lot for the world. These activities should be supported and one should know how to say thank you for them. The grateful Poland will support the activities of the United States.

Shortly before 3 p.m. U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney came for a conversation to the Blair House, the official residence of Lech Walesa in Washington. The meeting lasted about 30 minutes. The next guest of the Polish president was William Webster, chief of the CIA.

At 7:30 p.m. President Bush gave a gala reception in the White House to honour his Polish guest.

Officials Comment on Talks

LD2103145991 Warsaw PAP in English 1301 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Washington, March 21—Secretary of State for International Affairs at the Presidential Office Janusz Ziolkowski said here last night that the declaration on Polish-U.S. relations is a proof of recognition by the U.S. that Poland has become the driving force behind transformations which led to the breaking up of communism in central and eastern regions of Europe.

Ziolkowski, briefing Polish reporters on Polish-American talks held on Wednesday [20 March], said that the declaration reaches far out into problems of Poland's security, although it does not grant Poland a guarantee of security.

Referring to President Bush's announcement to reduce Poland's indebtness to the U.S. by 70 per cent, Ziolkowski stressed that the U.S. decision means further pressure on countries which have already agreed to reduce Poland's debt by 50 per cent, to grant Poland additional reductions.

"The two presidents shared the view that Poland's successful economic development might be a good example which would favourably influence the development of situation in this part of Europe," Secretary of State at the Presidential Office Slawomir Siwek, who attended the Bush-Walesa meeting, told reporters here last night.

"The two presidents were also unanimous that it was necessary to do everything so that Poland and other Central and East European countries could develop economically and politically in a free and safe way," he added.

Minister Siwek described the talks held by the two presidents as discussions between two politicians who undersood each other very well as well as between friends who understood the conditions of the world situation.

Next, Minister Siwek said the Polish president's meeting with Defence Secretary Richard Cheney focused on the economic situation of the Polish defence industry, preparations for a joint training of the Polish military, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Poland and the modernization of the Polish Army.

Siwek said the U.S. stance on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Poland was "the same as that of Poland."

Minister Siwek also said the visit "was bringing about more positive results and concrete effects for Poland that one could expect."

Walesa Gives Speech

LD2003225591 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1516 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Speech by President Lech Walesa at the White House in Washington—live]

[Text] Esteemed Mr. President: I thank you for such a nice welcome, I thank you for your friendly words. I am happy that I can stand on the hospitable American soil. I come here as president of the sovereign and democratic Polish Republic, the country that was the first to challenge communism, and today it is building a system of freedom, democracy, and free enterprise.

It is no coincidence that America is the destination of one of the first trips in my term as president. The United States has for more than 200 years been giving the world an example of how to build the system of freedom. The United States led the free world in defending the values of democracy and humanism. Your determination and your flowering of civilization were the hope of the Poles standing against an alien domination. It is America, acting on behalf of the international community, that has recently restored peace and justice in the Persian Gulf.

Poland is not a world superpower; her actions do not have a global dimension. Poland was the first in Central Europe to enter the path of freedom. Poland is a country that shows the way to other nations liberating themselves from communism. Poland has also taken upon herself the burden of restructuring the market economy. In the past we benefitted from the United States of America's political, economic and, most of all, moral assistance. Today a considerable part of our debt has been reduced. Your personal involvement in this matter has an historical dimension for Poland. It gives us new, great opportunities. With all my heart, I thank the great American nation for this help.

Transformations in Poland are not yet finished. The political victory of Solidarity should be reflected in economic success.

Our success is important not only for us—it is needed for Europe, as it consititutes a condition of order and stability. It is needed for the whole free world because it broadens its boundaries in the central region of the continent. It enlarges the zone of democracy and security. Relations between the Polish Republic and the United States have presently reached their postwar peak. One could even say—they have reached their highest peak in the whole of our history.

Our countries are linked by common values and the same ideals. We are linked by our friendly cooperation on the international arena. I would wish this to be followed by the development of mutually advantageous economic cooperation. Free Poland is becoming a country of new economic possibilities. It is worth developing cooperation and trade with Poland as well as investing there. I invite you to this cooperation because it will be beneficial for both sides.

Mr. President, I know that you are a genuine friend of Poland. I am grateful to you for your exceptionally warm-hearted interest in our problems. Our talks will contribute to the strengthening of cooperation and friendship between our nations. God bless you, Mr. President. God bless America.

Kolodziejczyk Notes NATO Counterbalancing Role

LD2103111591 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0600 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] The restoration by Moscow of its influence in Poland is impossible, Defense Minister Vice Admiral Piotr Kolodziejczyk told GAZETA WYBORCZA. We are a sovereign state, and democratization processes in the Soviet Union have gone too far. After all, Moscow will not want to repeat its mistakes in Afghanistan, or overlook the latest messages coming out of the Baltic republics. According to Minister Kolodziejczyk, NATO remains a serious stabilizing force in Europe and a counterbalance to the Soviet Union.

Progress Reported in EC Cooperation Talks

LD2003222891 Warsaw PAP in English 1454 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Brussels, March 20—"Significant progress was attained in various areas to be covered by the prospective agreement," according to a press communique of the EC commission issued after the third round of Poland-EC talks on Poland's association with the EC.

The communique said the progress in question covered political dialogue, flow of capital and services, and financial arrangements, among other things.

The communique admitted that as for trade arrangements, the Polish side refused to accept the EC proposal on a free trade zone with Poland, which left Poland's farming, textile and steel exports outside the agreement.

However, a considerable proportion of the agreement embracing cooperation in information, audiovisual sphere, and culture alongside the final provisions has already been agreed, the communique said.

The next round of talks is scheduled for April 22 and 23, and will be preceded with intensive negotiations by experts of both sides.

Free Trade Proposals 'Not Satisfactory'

LD2103164291 Warsaw PAP in English 1531 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Warsaw, March 21—"EC proposals concerning the scope, pace and ways of building a free trade zone are not satisfactory for Poland. Neither do they match vital interests of the Polish economy," Andrzej Olechowski, vice-minister of foreign economic relations, told journalists today after his return from another round of negotiations with the EC.

"The scope of free trade between Poland and the EC would be restricted, and actually farm produce would be eliminated from this trade. Textile products, iron and steel would be incorporated in the agreement on a free trade zone only in 10 years time," he added.

"If we do not get the EC market's opening, the Polish Government will not be able to resist the pressure of those three sectors to apply protectionist measures in Poland," Olechowski warned.

Sejm Speaker Reacts to Elections Criticism

LD2103134691 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0835 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Remarks by Sejm Speaker Mikolaj Kozakiewicz at the 54th sitting of the Sejm in Warsaw—live]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Before moving on to the first point on the agenda, I would like to say a few words. Today for the first time in a long while, we are holding a normal Sejm session. [applause] In January and February we mainly dealt with the budget and the amendments introduced to it by the new government of Prime Minister Bielecki. Half of March was taken up by work on the electoral law and preparations for a debate on the future of the Sejm. Thus only today are we starting a normal Sejm session devoted to some outstanding laws. There are many of them, hence the packed agenda. The Sejm is going to have to work with great intensity to meet both the demands of the public and government.

The decision taken by the Sejm at its last meeting, particularly the one to defer new elections until the autumn, may not be liked by many people. Some deputies present in this chamber do not like them either, but one thing has to be stated clearly: It is a decision made in accordance with the law, in accordance with the Constitution, in accordance with the present form of the state in which the Sejm is the highest body of authority. [applause] That is why one can only regret that immediately following the previous Sejm session, voices insulting the Sejm reverberated—irresponsible voices, or quite simply voices calling on activity that was unconstitutional or contrary to obligatory legal order. Those calls were not only dangerous for the Sejm presently in existence, but also for the future Sejm, which is only to be elected in the autumn elections.

Let us be frank. Not all of us, either, are satisfied with the present Constitution, but until a new one is passed, that Constitution is obligatory, and each breaking of it would form an important threat to the further development of democracy in Poland. After all, once the Constitution has been broken, the law infringed, it is only with great difficulty and after a long time that that can be rectified. As the Sejm, we do not apply the old principle of an eye for an eye; we are not going to reply to hate with hate, anger with anger, slander with slander. We regret all these events, but we are going to reply to them only through our work creating legal regulations for further reforms.

After the autumn elections—let us hope they will be as successful as possible—people will totally forget about this four-month delay, and really only those laws will count that have been passed in accord with the needs of the country and public expections in that time. With such an attitude we are starting our work today. That is all I wanted to say to you at the outset of this meeting. [loud applause]

Solidarity Adopts Stance on Reprivatization

LD1903221291 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 2000 GMT 19 Mar 91

[Text] The Independent Self-Governing Trade Union [NSZZ] Solidarity National Commission Presidium meeting in Gdansk today adopted a stance on the privatization of the economy. The document states that the NSZZ Solidarity believes that reprivatization can only be accepted in a limited sphere. The Polish state is poor, sacrifices lasting a long time are expected from many citizens, it cannot afford to satisfy all the demands and recognize all the wrongs caused by fascists and communists over the last 50 years. Reprivatizations must be accompanied by fundamental guarantees for employees of the reprivatized enterprises. The document of the Presidium of the union's National Commission on the privatization of the economy declares that the scope of the guarantees must be negotiated with NSZZ Solidarity.

Meeting Supports Farmers' Protest

LD2003222691 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1300 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Protest action announced by farmers was supported at a meeting in Warsaw by voivodship presidents, deputies, and the Polish Peasant Party leadership. It was said in a statement issued by the meeting that a change in agricultural policy and an improvement in the economic situation of the countryside would be possible to attain by the joint action of all peasant organizations.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Diplomacy Issues

AU2103160791 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 16 Mar 91 pp 1, 8

[Interview with Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase by Crina Sirbu; place and date not given: "A Bet With Ourselves"]

[Text] [Sirbu] You described what is being done to guarantee a coherent structural strategy for Romanian diplomacy during a recent meeting with journalists. I noted that our eyes are mostly turned toward Europe. This is natural; however, do you believe that Europe—and I am referring especially to the West—will be easy to "conquer?" What do you think we have to do to win this bet? Between us, I should say, a bet with ourselves....

[Nastase] I think it is mainly with ourselves. In the final analysis, our big bet is the domestic reform, which will inevitably lead to this threshold of acceptability. It is probably not a common term, but I have used it to demonstrate that we are talking about a process, which is influenced first and foremost by what we are doing at home and second by what we convey abroad in connection with what we are doing at home. Many things are perceived directly on the spot by the international media channels. Surely we, or rather especially we, are obligated to present them ourselves; furthermore, in my opinion we have been able to establish the necessary contacts with European institutions and structures. I believe that we have also been able to establish normal diplomatic relations at the bilateral level with the Western countries. Even if there still exists some mistrust regarding developments in Romania, I believe that there is also a certain confidence or rather hope, I should say, about what is happening in our country. We should not refute these hopes and this way of viewing our relations from outside. I think that this is our big bet for the coming spring. With your permission I will now proceed to the next level of our diplomatic action within which—after we take in Europe as a whole—it is essential to tackle relations with our neighbors. We have already begun certain actions in this respect.

[Sirbu] You have anticipated my next question linked to the area in which our country is located. As you know, the refusal Romania had to face in Visegrad [location of recent meeting in Hungary] led to a lot of commentaries. What was the involvement of the ministry you are leading in this foreign policy action that, actually, bears the prime minister's signature? How was it prepared? Are there any signs indicating that there is still a chance for us to join this trilateral understanding in the future?

[Nastase] To understand our steps in connection with the Visegrad meeting, one has to understand the way we view the Eastern European security zone. We have no preconceived ideas about the way to organize this security zone, obviously a basic level is that of bilateral relations. While awaiting an all-European mechanism, however, one has to seek a formula to combat the security void that has been created through the dismantlement of the Warsaw Pact, especially through the disappearance of its military dimension. There are several organizational options: either by starting from a certain nucleus—as for example the triangle you mentioned—or by proposing a different formula that will involve all countries in this area. It is clear that this zone cannot be organized at a level that will ensure the consultation needs for a stable zone only on the basis of "islands."

[Sirbu] You probably are not thinking of reviving what has just died....

[Nastase] By no means. We are not talking about a military dimension, but only about a dimension of consultation. A completely different philosophy is at stake. It would not be logical to think of eliminating something only to rebuild the same thing in the same place. Thus, one of the versions, which we have tested as would any negotiator, was this triangle. This is one of the policies that we are promoting in our ministry—a policy based on YES, not a policy based on NO. Sometimes this yes has to be pushed, promoted, and taken to court. This is one way, but not the only one. We have numerous other possibilities about which we think and which we propose. In this sense, at one point I referred to the possibility of creating a Central and Eastern Union in the Eastern European zone, that is a kind of counterpart to the Western European Union. Thus the rationale of our action is part of intensive efforts to see which formulas are more feasible and which would be tempting for us in the future.

[Sirbu] Speaking about Visegrad, I believe that no one contested the action itself.

[Nastase] ...only the way in which it was taken. First, I have to tell you that the idea appeared within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The letter itself was edited at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We know this, and our Hungarian friends know this. The way this letter was dispatched was more a matter of the channel of communication, which, I think, is not an essential element to be heeded. Thus, this was an action that was taken by starting from a very clear concept of ours that—obviously—had to be stressed at one point.

It is true, however, that Mr. Roman's letter was sent privately to the Hungarian prime minister to consult with him about this idea. Thus, this was not a formal application that had to be examined during said meeting. Other letters and steps were supposed to follow this letter; therefore, we were somewhat surprised to note that it was discussed within the Visegrad meeting. I do not think this is an essential question. The message was clear, and we would have reached such a stage anyway. In connection with cooperation among these three countries, our position is very simple—we are prepared to join an effort, say cooperation at various levels, in Central and Eastern Europe. We will participate if this is

possible. If it is not possible, then we will pursue different roads, which our imagination permits us to bear in mind in the future and which our political action validates.

[Sirbu] Let us linger in this area. Last week you emphasized how necessary it is for our relations with Hungary to conduct "a firm, but civil dialogue." In this sense, what do the most recent bilateral exchanges of views you had on various occasions indicate?

[Nastase] I think they indicate exactly this: Surely, our differences of opinion are quite big, or rather, the way we look upon certain things is very different. I do not believe we will improve our bilateral relations through fiery statements and extremely caustic public statements. I believe it is much more useful to pursue a pragmatic way in dealing with our relations, so—while we are patiently building these relations step by step—we may also influence the mentality and subjective elements, which sometimes leave their mark. On the other hand, we have to lessen emotional tension caused by certain things. Seen from this angle, I would like to mention—and this is the foundation of my statement—that certain positive things have been achieved of late: the conclusion of a cultural agreement; an agreement on the opening of cultural houses in Bucharest and Budapest; the finalization of the "Open Skies" accord—there are just a few elements left but they will probably be solved very soon—the accord and protocol on military cooperation between the two ministries of defense; cooperation in education; and the visit of the Romanian minister of education to Hungary. At the same time, talks were held at the level of our consular offices in connection with the situation of Romanians in Hungary and of citizens of Hungarian origin in Romania. Thus, all this has taken place and proves that positive results can be achieved. On the basis of this philosophy, I believe that—as I said during the meeting with journalists—we can make geography win against history.

[Sirbu] On the same occasion you also spoke about a certain "sensitiveness" of our neighbors in the East. How much and in what way do we have to deal gently with this susceptibility?

[Nastase] We are mainly talking about a political sensitiveness, which, to a certain extent, is generated by a certain frustration that exists, probably, within some groups in Moscow linked to the loss of Eastern Europe; this refers not only to Romania, but to the whole zone. All the more so since sometimes there is this temptation—which, from Moscow's angle probably cannot be a positive element—this turn toward the West at the economic and political level. This undoubtedly generates this sensitiveness; however, I think this situation can be solved on the basis of correct political and juridical relations between the Romanian Government and the Soviet Government. From this point of view, the visit paid in the past few days to Bucharest by the Soviet deputy foreign minister, Mr. Kvitsinskiy, played quite an important role, because the two sides were able to discuss the essential elements of a treaty of cooperation, good-neighborliness, and friendship which we will conclude with the Soviet Union; as a matter of fact, the USSR negotiates such accords with the other European countries, as well. Within this framework we have been able to establish—and we hope that this will be the final formula—relations bearing mainly in mind the standards of the CSCE. Thus, eliminating the former framework of political relations and setting up a new and clear framework to match the changes that have occurred, we are able to maintain natural and normal relations. I believe that this is our answer to the sensitiveness we were talking about.

[Sirbu] As you know, on 17 March the union referendum is going to take place in the USSR. And you also know that the Republic of Moldova launched an appeal for nonparticipation. What is the Romanian Government's stance toward these events?

[Nastase] Our government's stance has to bear in mind the facts of the problem at the political level. On the one hand, the organization of the referendum belongs to the sphere of Soviet domestic divisions, while on the other the Republic of Moldova—in affirming its sovereignty—can make certain decisions, which for us are obviously "res inter alios acta" [a transaction between others]. They are elements that belong to the internal organization of the Soviet Union. Obviously, our stance has to be an intelligent one and, at the same time, in accordance with the international documents that we have endorsed. We can very well understand the rationale and reasons that form the foundation of the decisions made by the Republic of Moldova, but we will not be able to make statements and adopt political positions that obviously regard another political arena. From an emotional angle and from the point of view of the government things may be viewed differently. I personally believe, however, that we have to weigh things with great responsibility. Furthermore, we have to affirm one thing that we actually said in connection with developments in Lithuania and Latvia—namely, that by no means should force be used to solve possible differences in opinion that regard the way of building a political future for the Soviet Union and for its component republics. The position of the Republic of Moldova, as we have understood it, is to favor the affirmation of its cultural identity and sovereignty within the Soviet Union. Surely, on the other hand, we are aware of one of the reasons why the Republic of Moldova does not want to participate in the referendum, which is linked to the fact that there has never existed a legal basis for its belonging to the Soviet Union. We also note that they are very reticent in connection with the idea that such a referendum may legitimize accomplished facts from a legal viewpoint. This is a question we ourselves are pursuing—as you yourselves—in the hope that the best formula will be found for the assertion of the interests of the Republic of Moldova.

[Sirbu] I hope, Mr. Minister, that this hope will not be in vain.

FSN Communique Condemns PNL's 'Slandering'

AU2103195791 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1907 GMT 21 Mar 91

["Parliamentary Diary: Communique of the NSF Parliamentary Group"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 21/3/1991—"We are informed that he processed in an 'original' manner the basic theses of the 'National Convention for the Establishment of Democracy'", reads a communique of the majority National Salvation front [FSN] parliamentary group presented in the Assembly of Deputies by Alexandru Albu, chairman of the group, in connection with the convention's "Message to the Nation" read on TV on March 20 night by National Liberal Party [PNL] Deputy N. Bedros, "a communique abounding in flagrant untruths, calumnies and slandering".

The presentation of the message soon after the violent and riotous end of the rally organized on March 20 by the Alfa TU bloc, the FSN communique reads, "entitles us to assess it is about a destabilizing scenario" since "the legitimacy of the legislation activity of the parliament is questioned, where he too belongs, and the content of laws voted with comfortable majority is questioned, some of them being voted even by those who signed the message of the National Convention for the Establishment of Democracy" the final part of which "reveals unequivocally its purpose: the taking over of the power without the electorate's approval" reads the communique of the majority FSN group.

Reactions to National Salvation Front Convention

AU2103210991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1949 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 21/3/1991—The dailies issued in Bucharest continue to publish various opinions on the first national convention of the ruling party:

"DIMINEATA", daily of information and democratic opinion: A political party, can it monitor the democratization of the Romanian society when it is not able to apply democratic principles in its own activity" The question is serious and if no reasonable answer is given in the activity of this political party, extremely unpleasant consequences could appear. Many people criticized the "constitution" of the party itself, the statute, revolting that it makes it possible for a leader to remain in its position for ever. (...)

The National Salvation Front [FSN] made an option for social-democracy at the very beginning. But when the government was praised for the liberal orientation of the reform in view, the ruling party was flattered and paid no attention to the social- democratic doctrine any longer. But as it is high time for "organization" and "reorganization", FSN was forced to explicitly re-assert its social-democratic leaning, especially as it is in concord with the idea of limited privatisation of certain industries, so dear to the government. As social-democracy as such does not exist, its nuances are given by the concrete conditions of applying the political doctrine, so that it is not enough to assert this orientation. Certain delimitations were made nevertheless, but unfortunately they did nothing but stress what social-democracy is not in the view of the ruling party. The breaking with Marxist-Leninist socialism and the non-adherence to the liberal doctrine were specified.

Terming the convention "the most democratic party meeting" in Romania, the FSN Leader Petre Roman probably wanted to reassure the front that voluntarism and centralism were out of question. The dissident group of nine that split the next day proves he didn't succeed to sound really convincing.

"TINERETUL LIBER", independent daily: Therefore, the economic factor is the panacean solution and the centerpiece of the bet with the future.

In broad terms, by its ideas and principles, the FSN program can be considered to have been rightly defined "a vision of responsibility and hope", and it is encouraging that its two main leaders promised to commit themselves to put it into effect. The FSN statutes themselves assume, on a theoretical level of course, the principles of democracy in structuring and making this political party operational.(...). If, for the time being, the ruling party has no important ideologists, and the program and the debates were lacking clarity in this respect, it counts a good many technocrats and their double function is for the time being the only solution to strengthen the party and ensure its credibility in implementing the reform. (...) No real competition, triggering the fight for supremacy in the party could have been noticed, no real inner crisis has threatened the National Salvation Front so far, it has only bet on the transition program, and this point is not easy at all to win.

"ADEVARUL", independent daily : a nostalgia for the unique party (...) Although there are so many parties that could be praised by the voices representative for the current countering the ruling party, they hesitate to do it. Their attention is hypnotically centered on FSN, which they are untiringly criticizing, with and without reason. Be the exaggerated attention given to FSN motivated by negative factors, it only makes it acquire the false position of the unique party. And when the ruling party is criticized not for real faults but for imaginary ones, the criticizing voices sound ridiculous. Instead of being accused for taking or for not taking an attitude in concrete situations, the Front is considered responsible for the creation of the socialist party of labor, of "Vatra Romaneasca", of the party for the Romanians' National Unity or recently, for the separatists 20 May FSN. Is the Front so faultless, that faults are necessary to be invented to it?

Under the heading "A Normal Course Seen as a Surprise", the 21 March issue of the daily "ADEVARUL"

brings together opinions of several political leaders regarding the recent regroupings within the upper FSN echelons:

National Liberal Party [PNL] Senator Radu Campeanu: "...The separations that are beginning to appear within the FSN are but natural and I think they could no be avoided, in spite of all the efforts made so far to keep a unity which I consider just a facade."

FSN Senator Claudiu Iordache: "I consider this break-away is welcome, because maintaining unity by all means, even if justified by "diversity in unity", would have failed to secure the majority group's cohesion in the critical moments to follow."

Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania Senator Attila Verestoy: "It is a meager but natural attempt which comes as a consequence of the fact that the sound principle of internal pluralism was not favored by the FSN convention. I am sure other break-aways from the FSN will follow, because I can hardly accept the idea that the front could be a "unity of thought and action".

Social Democratic Party Deputy Sergiu Cunescu: "What is happening now can be considered as favorable for the Romanian democracy. As a matter of fact, the Front itself admitted it was seeking an identity of its own, an identity they could hardly define even now, after the convention."

Romanian National Unity Party (RNUP) Senator Radu Ceontea: "Even if it is true what they say that the group of 10 will form the core of the opposition to the national leader, by a marked social- democratic leaning and by reverting to the programme the FSN promoted during the electoral campaign, the news leaves me unmoved. Unmoved and sad at the thought that our people, although the owner of about 150 parties, is led by one only, one but big. That is why the ten dissidents do not count."

National Democratic Party Deputy Serghei Mesaros: "(The split) is a clear consequence of the resettling movements inside the Front which, in fact is not a party with a clearly defined political doctrine, but a political conglomerate. I think this could be the nucleus of a future division of the FSN into two parties, one of social-democratic essence and one of a neo-liberal type."

National Peasant (Christian Democratic) Party Deputy Ion Diaconescu: "A party can be built while in opposition and this is a matter of political creed and time. The front emerged while in power. Many rushed under its banner for the material benefits they enjoyed. I for one, doubt the truthfulness of many front members' adhesion to it. It is very likely that many other parliamentarians will leave this party."

National Liberal Party-Young Wing Deputy Calin Popescu-Tariceanu: "this dissidence or breach was predictable. Maybe its impact is greater than expected. I am absolutely sure that in the near future we shall see more ideological clarifications, and further delimitations within the majority parliamentarian group.

Fratia TU Holds News Conference on Prices

AU2103210891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1941 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 21/3/1991—The Fratia TU Confederation gave a news conference on March 21, to express the stand on the second stage of price thawing and on the social issues generated by the current situation, both economically and politically.

They focussed mainly on matters of social protection and the unemployment law. It was considered that the recently proposed variants of the government were not satisfactory, but they were an intermediate stage and the confederation members, although sustaining the economic reform, did not agree to its brutal implementation.

It was shown that all proposed handouts were not proportionate with the new prices, which would affect the small enterprises and recently set up commercial companies and the government was demanded to further back them materially.

Bistrita Rally Demands 'Real Social Protection'

AU2103210591 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1929 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 21/3/1991—Hundreds of workers, technicians and experts of the economic units in the industrial development of Bistrita City got out in the city streets in a protest march on March 21. They carried boards reading "Think of our children's future", "The government is going to ruin us", "We demand real social protection".

In front of the Bistrita City House of Culture a protest rally took place, organized by the Free TU Convention of Bistrita-Nasaud County. The union leaders stressed in their addresses the difficult situation of the Bistrita City and county economic units, the impossibility of securing the material base, the corruption, profiteering and bribery, law infringements, uncertainty of the future, mounting unemployment.

A protest motion was addressed in the end to the Prefect's Office, the Mayor's Office of Bistrita City, to the government, the parliament, some ministries and the press.

Iliescu Accused of 'Saving' Nomenklatura

AU2103152191 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 14 Mar 91 p 3

[Constanta Munteanu article, "Mr. Iliescu Facing the Revolution"]

[Excerpts] If we were to believe him, the act of Mr. Iliescu taking the power was done against his beliefs and interests, as a kind of sacrifice. Why did Mr. Iliescu "assume" that "burden" and that "risk" in December 1989? "I have not done it because of personal motives, but because the circumstances made me assume this responsibility," he later declared in a very shy manner.

Two of the decree-laws issued on 12 January 1990 were withdrawn the next day, an action that Mr. Iliescu explained in this way: "We made the mistake of issuing decrees that we had to cancel."

The goal of the revolution, according to Mr. Iliescu was strictly Ceausescu's replacement. [passage omitted]

If the threat of terrorists was not as serious as Mr. Iliescu claims today, then why was it necessary to call civilians to defend with their own bodies the headquarters of the former Romanian Communist Party Central Committee and the Radio Television Building? Here is the aim of this appeal, according to Mr. Iliescu: "People have to act like a force which is orderly and is organized (Note: by the Iliescu-led National Salvation Front!); so one should see that order is made with the contribution, the participation, and the presence of the working people!"

Who had to see these things and for whom was such a show put up, no matter how many sacrifices it would have meant?...

Mr. Iliescu and the National Salvation Front have saved only the privileged class of the communist nomenklatura and of the Securitate gangs, without caring about the proper administration of the country and without respect for justice, freedom, and democracy. The incapability of the old communists "who were experts in every field" to administer lands proved to have catastrophic consequences and caused newer and newer useless sufferings to the country. But this is only natural because Mr. Iliescu and his people do not think of sacrificing their clan interests and cooperating for the replacement of the mad structures of the communist system. Romania has no future until it is satisfied to continue its existence in accordance with the laws of the "scientific socialism" in a state of chronicle spiritual and physical malnutrition. Anybody who wants to torture this country to play the game of a terrorist organization is called "traitor."

Stolojan Denies Information on Price Increase

AU2103210691 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1923 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 21/3/1991—In connection with the information releasesd by some news agencies according to which a 316 per cent rise in the food prices would completely eliminate state subsidies in Romania, Finance Minister Theodor Stolojan mentions that the respective information was not released by any authorized government institution and it is not true.

Severin on Reform, Changes in Executive Structure

AU2003193691 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1841 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 20/3/1991—The implementation of the government's program of reform is essential, very important in the context of the recent National Convention of the ruling party, the National Salvation Front, and of this period when the reform is speeded up, Adrian Severin, minister for the reform and the relation with the parliament, told a news conference on Tuesday, 20 March. Attending were Romanian journalists, foreign press correspondents in Bucharest.

The executive is faithful to its initial declaration, according to which the economic reform must be in step with the political reform, said Adrian Severin, who reminded the features of the government's reform program, namely its "global character," as it has in view all sectors, "privatisation and democratization, that cannot be achieved without price liberalisation," "economic stability," "structural adjustment or readjustment of economic macroproportions," "the progressive convertibility of the Romanian currency."

These principles must be carried on under the conditions of social security," which is a matter not only of the government's goodwill, but also of the possibilities of our national economy."

Referring to the phase of price liberalisation and social security to begin on 1 April, Minister Adrian Severin specified that, unlike in the first phase, at this moment there exist agreements with international financial bodies, with national banking institutions, that will support the implementation of the reform with funds and credits necessary both for revitalizing the national economy and for social security.

Minister Adrian Severin also announced a number of changes in the structure of the executive, i.e. the reorganisation of the present Council for the Reform into a Ministry of Economy and Finance, and the creation of an Inter-Ministerial Council on Economic Problems, intended to render the implementation of the reform as coherent as possible.

Adrian Severin is of the opinion that "the price liberalisation will not be stimulating for black marketeering, on the contrary, will discourage it." He said that "the relations between the government and the trade unions are very good, constructive, the union leaders have good ideas, made good suggestions." Consequently, he cannot understand the initiative of the "Alfa" Union of organizing a protest march these days.

Former Communist Party Members Plead Not Guilty

AU2103103691 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0852 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 21/3/1991—Debates in the trial of former Politburo members for the charge of genocide that started on July 21, 1990, ended on Wednesday, March 20, with the last statements of the accused.

All 21 defendants rejected the charges and asked the court to note their innocence both with regard to the original charge in the indictment (genocide) and to the new charge proposed by the prosecution (instigation to aggravated murder of two or more persons) and to absolve them of any penal responsibility.

The defendants also appreciated that the trial had a political character and that the accusation for penal offences was only a cover for the real purpose: Annihilating the Former Romanian Communist Party leadership and discrediting the structures of Romania's former political regime.

The sentence of the Bucharest Military Court will be read on Monday, March 25, at 1300 hrs, in public session.

Foreign Ministry Assesses Moldova Referendum

AU2103210791 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1938 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 21/3/1991—Answering a question about the Foreign Ministry's assessment of the referendum in the Republic of Moldova, Ambassador Traian Chebeleu, spokesman of the Romanian Foreign Ministry, stated in his newsbriefing on March 21: "We follow attentively the developments in the Soviet Union, the returns of the referendum and the way how it proceeded in the Republic of Moldova.

"What is essential on assessing a referendum is its ability to ensure the direct expression of the people's will on the matter subject to it. Or, in Moldova, the referendum took place against the background of the known decision of the constitutional leading bodies of the republic that popular poll not be participated in. Hence, a tense atmosphere, against the background of which we have had intelligence about abuses, irregularities and forgery in its proceeding.

"We note that in the March 19 news conference, Mr. Revenko, adviser to the USSR president, informed that some 650,000 persons had participated in the referendum in the Republic of Moldova. According to our own information, the figure means some 18.82 per cent of the republic's population with a right to vote.

"Of what we know, a commission of the Supreme Soviet has been set up to assess the referendum returns and we shall see what the conclusions of the commission are", Ambassador Traian Chebeleu concluded.

Markovic Views Political, Economic Crisis

LD2003174191 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1407 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Speech by Federal Executive Council President Ante Markovic to the SFRY Assembly Federal Chamber in Belgrade—live]

[Text] I thought it necessary to say a few words. All that is happening today in our country, without going into all the profound reasons for the problems we are facing, and their solution and a way out of the crisis, on which I have spoken to you from this platform several times in the past two years, for it is just two years now and I hope that there will be an opportunity to say it again, and not just once—one thing should be said, we are in a decisive phase of the reform in our society. This is not only because it is a question of whether we will continue the reform, but also whether we will preserve Yugoslavia as one country regardless of the form of its organization that will survive.

It is our, as well as my own, opinion that without reform there can be no new Yugoslavia. The one is completely identified with the other. Only on a reform basis—modern, democratic, pluralistic with a different form of ownership, with a market, political pluralism, democracies, and a new system built on all this and with the confidence that will be built in our country, can we build in Yugoslavia—can we insure that Yugoslavia, as a modern, democratic, and progressive country continues not only to exist and develop, but also to find its place among the other developed countries of Europe.

A crucial question for us is—in the present situation, in which legal anarchy and economic chaos reign, with enormous social and economic tensions, with a heavy price that is being paid and will have to be paid not only by a fall in production, which will get even lower, but also by a fall in the standard of living, coupled with our enormous political problems and conflicts, national, intranational, ideological, and political—could we overcome these problems by halting the reforms or by further developing them. Is it the fault of the reforms and of the policies by which they were impemented that we have found ourselves in such a situation, or was it political circumstances and conditions, a struggle for power and lack of readiness to accept these reforms that have led to the crisis and intensified it? The answer is very clear. Allow me to illustrate this by example. Through September of last year, this country had every chance to cross the rubicon of reforms at a social, economic, and political cost lower than in any other former socialist country.

This did not suit some because they would lose their authority. That is why they blame the reform and continue to denounce the process of changes in our country, blaming this for the situation in the country.

In any case, if major reforms in the country are not needed, why is it that we have been in a crisis for years? Would it be possible, on the basis of the old system based on social ownership, to pull out of the crisis? Well, there would be no problems. Why should we want then to mess with things?

It is evident and quite clear that without changing the complete system, there will be no way out of the crisis, there will be no solutions for anyone, including our country.

If you please, we proposed all this the year before last.

I am very pleased to hear that you have adopted the law on public expenditure that will place it under control and unburden the economy and the economic entities of the country. We must insist on the same for the law on wages.

No country has yet implemented reforms or stabilized its economy and society—there is no record of this—through increasing production, the standard of living, and at the same time consumption and costs. This is simply impossible. There is no record of this in history and I hope there will not be, as that would imply perpetual motion; furthermore, costs, expenditure, and wages continue to rise.

Additionally, to establish legal order, a minimum legal order appropriate to progressively organized states and societies, there must be respect for payment operations, for the monetary and foreign exchange system, and for the legal system. I have repeated here on several occasions: No one part of the system can be ignored, and particularly not the legal system at the federal level, while adhering to the system at the republican level. When its erosion sets in, it will be complete, right down to the last atom. This applies to any system: the payment operations, the foreign exchange system, or any other.

A prerequisite for saving this country is the adoption of our proposals, not as a means of deviating from or suspending the Constitution—in any case we proposed and advocated as forcefully as possible the constitutional amendments that if adopted today would make a peaceful denouement of events in our country possible—or to reintroduce centralization or unitarism in our country, but as a step toward establishing the necessary mainstays for the country's legal and other systems conducive to reinstating all the functions of our society necessary to give us both time and conditions for an agreement on Yugoslavia's future and the foundations upon which to build it.

In addition to this, one of the key issues—after today's adoption of these two laws, as well as the law on the social accountancy service—is to adopt other laws as well, especially the one on the National Bank of Yugoslavia and on federal bonds, to regulate the budget, both for 1990 and for 1991.

No country, especially a modern one, can function without the budget fulfilling a dual role. The first role, a classical one, refers to the Army, foreign affairs, internal

affairs, and the administration itself. The second role, and economic role, refers to the tax system, and within this framework, to the country's budget that plays an active part in economic and other policies of the country, particularly social policies.

For this reason it is necessary to give support to these laws. All the laws for which discussion deadline has been extended by seven days, are in fact laws that need to insure discipline for implementing these fundamental regulations and nothing else—in the transitional period only, until a new agreement is reached. Once the agreement is reached it would mean that we have generated trust, and once we have generated trust the system could start functioning fully, even without its penal provisions.

We think it necessary to insure the adoption of all these laws. They represent an entity. Apart from making sure that the system can function fully, they are insuring foreign support, which was discussed today.

The world is giving support to 11 points—and we now know that it is 12 plus three points—proposed by the Federal Executive Council [FEC]. These points must guarantee the coexistence and functioning of our system and make it possible for an agreement to be reached on the country's future. Furthermore, I must say that it is a crucial question for us as well—to which we gave a reply—whether the economic and social price for the transitional period would be higher or lower if we went our own separate ways or if we stayed together. Our reply was clear: In all respects the price would be lower if we stayed together.

Second, is the coexistence of various political systems and various political options possible in our country? We have answered in the affirmative. It is and must be possible, because without it no country with a modern organization would be possible. Besides, this is not only our reality and something specific to us. In the many countries of the world that are organized in such a way that they comprise several states; in one state one political option has won, in another a second political option, but nothing prevents them from having a common state and from all fighting in that common state for the system that exists to function as well as possible.

The answer to this is quite clear to us. No one has the right to impose their political option on another.

We consider that the solution to our crisis is only possible by democratic, legislative, and peaceful means, and not the opposite. This is why the FEC has endeavored to respond to all current issues with democratic, legislative agreement and not with the creation of conditions or the proclamation of any kind of situation, including a state of emergency, and certainly not by allowing armed conflict in Yugoslavia, which would indeed make of this country a completely foreign body in a modern part of the world such as Europe.

Within this framework and on the basis of these orientations, the FEC has throughout this time, and during those days that are identified as the crisis days of 12-15 March, functioned most consistently and in a manner appropriate to the rights, duties, and obligations that it possesses on the basis of the Constitution and the law. I can say that the FEC has functioned continually, day and night, and that it has kept a hold on the situation as far as it has the leverage to do so; and that it has also advocated that all the problems in the Yugoslav Presidency should be resolved in a democratic manner, notwithstanding the fact that—and this is valid for every institution, including the FEC, and the Presidency, and this assembly—any member of a body can conclude that he can no longer be a member of that body. This is his personal, human, political, moral, and whatever kind of right. But that institution must function, until another person takes his place.

As far as the Presidency is concerned, we hold that, in addition to other functions, there are two functions of key importance. One, that the Presidency must be capable of passing laws as temporary measures when, in line with the Constitution, it is essential to pass them to secure functioning of the system. Second, the Presidency must be capable of discharging its function as the supreme commander.

Therefore, the FEC has advocated that the Yugoslav Presidency be enabled to function, and it urges that talks in the Yugoslav Presidency be held with presidents of all republics or presidencies, pending one's constitutional post in an individual republic, and continue tomorrow with the Assembly president and the FEC president, and that the process of finding a way out of the crisis in our country and the negotiations about the country's future, continue.

The FEC, which is functioning and, if I may say so, its president are in touch with all, let me use the expression , its ministers.

There are no reasons for our citizens to worry whether a peaceful and democratic denouement of the events in our country will be secured. I believe—and this is a FEC stand—that it should be said here, which I am doing at the moment, that discussions must be transferred to legislatures, discussions must be transferred to assemblies, and on that basis we must guarantee our citizens that solutions in this country will be solely peaceful and democratic, reached through further development of the reforms, through further advancement of the democratization and, in this sense, through the further progress of Yugoslavia as an equal member of the European community. [sentence as heard]

Let me thank you once more for giving me the opportunity to say something about this, and let us take joint responsibility, which stems from the Constitution, for everything that is happening, and transfer here all discussions, bearing in mind that the elections for the new FEC should be held as soon as possible. Thank you very much. [applause]

Presidency Session Viewed 'Increasingly Strident'

LD2103174291 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Dusko Mandic report from Belgrade on 21 March]

[Text] The SFRY Presidency is meeting today. The session is being attended by all Presidency members except Nenad Bucin, who resigned, and Riza Sapundziju, who has been replaced. Also present are all the republican presidents, the Federal Executive Council [FEC] president, and the president of the SFRY Assembly.

In the first part of the session the Presidency examined the latest situation following the resignation of SFRY Presidency President Borisav Jovic. Criticism was voiced several times concerning the hasty dismissal of Presidency member Riza Sapundziju, as well as on the suspension of the Kosovo Presidency. Borisav Jovic was strongly reproached for his explanation of his resignation and for his address in the Serbian Assembly, especially because he attacked several members of the SFRY Presidency and the federal government, as well as FEC President Ante Arkovic, in an unjustified and unsubstantiated way.

The Presidency also discussed the stands that the general staff had publicly announced. According to unofficial information, many opposing views and stands were expressed during the session. They all went for lunch together during the break after which the main debate on the central subject will follow—i.e. talks will resume on the country's future political order.

According to information we have been able to obtain so far, the federal government will meet after the session of the SFRY Presidency. Apart from the regular items on the agenda, given that the government usually meets on Thursdays, a discussion will also take place on the excessive and unsubstantiated attacks of President Jovic on the government and its president.

[Announcer] Our reporter has just told us that the afternoon proceedings of the presidency have started and—according to initial information—the session is taking place in an increasingly strident tone. The country's political future is being discussed. A proposal was presented to hold a session over several days, with the same people present, but to discuss specific views instead of the general speculations we have been hearing until now.

Markovic Protests Exclusion From Media Access

LD2103143491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1230 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 21 Mar (TANJUG)—TANJUG has been asked to broadcast the following statement by the Federal Executive Council's [FEC] Information Secretariat:

Federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic has been refused access to POLITIKA, POLITIKA EKSPRES and Belgrade Television to reply to the serious accusations against the FEC's policy and Ante Markovic made publicly by SFRY Presidency Borisav Jovic, president of the SFRY Presidency, at a session of the Serbian Assembly on 20 March while explaining his resignation from the SFRY Presidency. Despite the public proclamations and assurances on the part of both the responsible officials in the POLITIKA Publishing House and the republic's leadership that they would insist on unbiased reporting, the above media organizations have prevented the FEC from informing their audience about the arguments used by the federal government and federal Prime Minister Markovic to counter Jovic's serious accusations and untruths in which he blames the FEC for all the troubles, difficulties and problems facing the country's economy.

In response to this biased attitude, the FEC Information Secretariat today again called on the POLITIKA, POLITIKA EKSPRES, and Belgrade Television editors to observe the law on the public information media and to publicize its statement, thus allowing their readership and audience to judge for themselves if anything has changed in the old concept of a biased editorial policy as pursued by this publishing house.

FEC Responds to Jovic's Criticism

LD2003213591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1851 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 20 Mar (TANJUG)—In the statement on his resignation from membership of the SFRY Presidency, and particularly in his explanation of the resignation that he submitted to the Serbian Assembly on 20 March, Borisav Jovic focused on the Federal Executive Council [FEC], obviously trying in this way to justify the failure of a political option that does not have majority support among the people in Yugoslavia, nor is it supported by the world public. In this connection the FEC information service wishes to inform the public about the following facts:

In the explanation of his resignation, Jovic directed most of his reproaches against the restructuring of ownership in the economy, claiming that it is a question of "uncontrolled transfer of social ownership into private hands," "a cut-price sale of property to foreigners for next to nothing," etc. The facts are entirely different: In mid-1990 the FEC encouraged the process of privatization by freeing private initiative, and by the end of the year the number of private firms doubled. The so-called social ownership continues to play a part in the social product of Yugoslavia and has a share of over 90 percent of the created value in it. Unfortunately, only about 1,000 firms—i.e. 5 percent of the total number—took part in ownership restructuring. Some form of fraud was registered in only 2 percent of these. Not only was there no case of "uncontrolled transfer of social ownership into private hands," but furthermore, keeping the so-called

social ownership as a priority has led to a deficit in accumulation, and to the illiquidity of the economy and banks; in a word, it has preserved an inefficient and irrational economic structure that has no place in the international economic order.

Nor can Jovic's other accusations survive a confrontation with arguments. For instance, he claims that "the FEC's wrong economic policy has led the entire economy and consequently the whole of society to bankruptcy." It is the FEC stand that the federal government's failure to implement the economic policy has led to what Jovic sees as the cause of the present economic crisis. This is confirmed in the assessments of the international financial institutions (IMF, World Bank, European Parliament) that support the government's economic program. The republics have been told to implement it in full.

Jovic criticized the federal government for "the failure to attract foreign capital," claiming that support abroad for the FEC is "purely" verbal. Facts are irrefutable here too: Up to last autumn, 2,900 contracts were signed regarding foreign investment. Their overall value amounts to 2 billion Deutsche marks (in the same period, 700 million marks were invested in Hungary). At the end of last year, the process of signing contracts with foreign investors came to an end. Is it the FEC, or is it those who impose their views about the prospects for Yugoslavia and who are inducing fear in both the domestic and foreign public, that is responsible for this? The world fully supports Markovic's program. Investors are the biggest cowards in the world. So, in the last year the government program received $2.5 billion in aid from the IMF, the EEC, the European Bank, and the OECD. It can receive more than 4 billion this year. Foreign investment is entirely conditioned on unambiguous support for the government's economic program. Because there is no such support in the country, and because the government reform program is obstructed in every way, including this one, there is no money.

The public is fully informed about the liberalization of imports. Jovic keeps on repeating that "the FEC policy crudely took away the market from the domestic economy and gave it over to foreigners." [passage omitted]

This is not the first and it will not be the last attack on FEC macroeconomic policy. Like those before it, this attack will not weaken the federal government's resolve to continue with the implementation of the economic policy set out in the SFRY Assembly, the FEC statement concludes.

Republic Presidents Schedule Regular Meetings

LD2103184891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1751 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 21 Mar (TANJUG)—TANJUG has learned that the republican presidents—i.e. the presidents of the presidencies—agreed today that joint talks are necessary to solve the country's political problems. This is particularly true given existing circumstances, which are marked by the worsening of the Yugoslav crisis and a need for seeking joint solutions in the interest of all Yugoslav nations, nationalities, and citizens. In other words, it is vital to hold meetings between the republican presidents.

In view of this, the six presidents will be meeting over the next few weeks in an attempt to make joint progress by proposing the best possible solutions for the Yugoslav crisis. The contents of the proposals to be made in the process of working together will be sent to the republican assemblies and federal entities as soon as they are tabled.

The presidents believe that in existing circumstances, only a peaceful and democratic denouement can guarantee just and humane solutions for all Yugoslav republics and people, and for all citizens.

The host at the first meeting of the presidents will be Croatian President Franjo Tudjman; of the second, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic; the third, Slovene President Milan Kucan; the fourth, Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov; the fifth, Montenegrin President Momir Bulatovic; and the sixth, Bosnia-Hercegovina President Alija Izetbegovic.

Croatian Defense Council Assails Army Stands

LD2103001491 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] The Croatian Council for National Defense and Protection of Constitutional Order today held its 14th session, chaired by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. The Council examined yesterday's communique of the Supreme Command Headquarters of the Yugoslav Armed Forces and conditions for the resumption of talks regarding a democratic solution to the Yugoslav crisis.

The recent developments in the country delivered a fresh blow to the policy that wishes to solve the state crisis in Yugoslavia by force. The council acknowledged that the military leadership complied with the communique and adopted the SFRY decision on not imposing a state of emergency and on mobilization. The Council noted that the Supreme Command Headquarters of the Yugoslav Armed Forces does not exist as a peacetime institution and therefore its concealing itself behind this name is calculated to impress the public and dramatize the situation. The public has the right to know who stands behind the unsigned communique of the so-called Supreme Command Headquarters and will demand that responsibility be established for those who are demanding that a state of emergency be introduced.

The Council assessed as unacceptable the stands contained in the headquarters communique and in the letter that the headquarters sent to the SFRY Presidency, and warned of contradictions between these two documents. Despite the stand that the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] will not interfere in political agreements on the country's future, it is the intention of the military

leadership—through this communique—to dictate the conditions under which a peaceful and democratic solution to the Yugoslav crisis might be found. No democratic solution was ever found wherever the Army interfered in politics.

The Council for National Defense and Protection of the Constitutional Order further stresses that it can be deduced from the communique that the Yugoslav Armed Forces are only formally submitting themselves again to the Supreme Command of the SFRY Presidency and the structure of the federal government.

An accompanying letter to the communique, the letter that the headquarters sent to the SFRY Presidency, states that in the field of command and control, the armed forces and the supreme command headquarters, as a professional body, are not absolved from responsibility for the survival and security of the country and that they will discharge these constitutional obligations unconditionally. The Supreme Command Headquarters even retains the right to raise the level of combat-readiness of part of JNA units, depending on developments and specific circumstances and on the basis of its own assessments. Keeping this role of an arbiter, which is unconstitutional, would amount to a military coup. So, it is necessary for the SFRY Presidency to make it clear to the JNA that its role is to implement and not to create policy. Individuals in the military leadership cannot deny responsibility for the implementation of the decree on disarming paramilitary formations, but only the SFRY Presidency has this right.

In connection with this responsibility, a claim in the communique contradicts a claim made in the letter of the so-called Supreme Command Headquarters. The emergency Presidency decree talks about disarming illegal paramilitary formations and it explicitely states that the decree does not apply to the territorial defense and legal political forces. From the headquarters' communique and today's address by President Borisav Jovic and yesterday's speech by Slobodan Milosevic, it is clear that the decree is aimed at legal political forces of the Croatian Republic and the territorial defense of the Slovene Republic. The Croatian Republic thus proposes that the Yugoslav Presidency withdraws its order because for a long time it has unnecessarily been creating tensions in Yugoslavia. The Council also holds that the JNA demand for the territorial defense to be once again under its command and control system can be understood only in one way: that in peacetime they should be under the authority of the republics.

The Council cannot accept that in its communique the Supreme Command Headquarters referred to its role in the defense of the social order established by the federal constitution, because the results of elections in all Yugoslav republics have put an end to this social order and introduced a multiparty parliamentary democracy. Referring to the defense of the socialist order, the authors of the communique identified themselves with the political program contained in the well-known report of the political bureau of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense. It is the duty of the country's state entities, first and foremost foreign ministries, not the armed forces, to prevent interethnic conflicts and guarantee internal harmony and constitutional order. The council finds it unacceptable that the JNA should keep its right to interfere in interethnic and interparty relations. The council recalls that ever since the talks started in the SFRY Presidency, the Croatian Republic offered to continue its financing of the JNA in the transitional period, until an agreement was reached, and the principles on the basis of which defense in a federation of sovereign republics should be reorganized to guarantee national security to all republics, social security to officers, [word indistinct] consistent depoliticization and professionalization of the JNA.

The Council for National Defense and Protection of Constitutional Order also examined the report that Borisav Jovic submitted today to the Serbian Assembly and, regarding this, made the following assessment:

Jovic's report is assessed as completely unacceptable, considering that he was only repeating and further exacerbating accusations concerning so-called support by the majority of members of the SFRY Presidency for anti-constitutional and unlawful acts that lead to the country's breakup. At the same time Jovic, i.e. the Serbian Assembly—contrary to the SFRY Constitution and their own republican assembly—dismissed a Presidency member from Kosovo. In this connection the council has confirmed that the dismissal of Riza Sapundziju represented a serious violation of constitutional principles that requires urgent reaction on the part of the Constitutional Court of Yugoslavia. The council further confirmed that Jovic's unlawful and warmongering stands continued during a later discussion in the Serbian Assembly, on which occasion accusations flooded in from the well-known anti-Croatian and anti-democratic arsenal of the Belgrade public information media.

The Council for National Defense and Protection of Constitutional Order of the Republic of Croatia was also briefed on the initiatives of Croatian and Slovene Presidents Franjo Tudjman and Milan Kucan, concerning the convening of a joint session of republican presidents, and stresses in this connection:

The initiative of the Croatian and Slovene presidents for convening a session of all republican presidents—i.e. republican presidencies—originated at a time when it was not yet known whether the previously announced meeting of the SFRY Presidency, called for 21 March, could take place, given that President Jovic and members Nenad Bucin and Jugoslav Kostic had submitted their resignations, while Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic had announced that he no longer recognized the decisions of the SFRY Presidency. As they have now suddenly changed their mind, and there is also objective interest in the resumption of the SFRY Presidency's work, especially in its capacity as supreme commander

of the Armed Forces, the Council proposed—in agreement with the leaderships of the other republics—that the session of all the presidencies be postponed until Friday 22 March or Monday 25 March.

In conclusion, the Council of National Defense and Protection of Constitutional Order stresses that Vice President of the SFRY Presidency and representative of the Croatian Republic Stipe Mesic will take part in tomorrow's session of the SFRY Presidency.

Armed Forces Comment Questioned

LD2103130991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1144 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Zagreb, March 21 (TANJUG)—The National Defence Council of the Yugoslav republic of Croatia has requested information on the authority "behind the unattributable statement released by the so-called supreme command staff" of the Yugoslav Armed Forces on Tuesday.

A statement issued after the Council's session last night says that "the Supreme Command staff of the Yugoslav Armed Forces (which signed the Tuesday statement) does not exist as an institution in times of peace, so that the signing (of this body to the statement) has been calculated to impress the public and dramatize the situation" in the country.

The Supreme Command Staff of the Yugoslav Armed Forces said on Tuesday that the Army has no intention of interfering in political talks on the country's future, but that it would "under no circumstances permit inter-ethnic armed conflicts and civil war in Yugoslavia."

The Croatian Defence Council maintains that it is the duty of "the republican interior ministries and not of the Armed Forces to prevent inter-ethnic conflicts and guarantee law and order in the country." The Croatian council's statement goes on to describe as unacceptable the Army's interference in inter-ethnic relations.

Mesic To Attend Federal Presidency Session

LD2003200791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1938 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Zagreb, 20 Mar (TANJUG)—Croatian President Franjo Tudjman tonight chaired a session of the Croatian Republican Council for National Defense and Protection of the Constitutional Order, which was held behind closed doors.

Although TANJUG does not have official information from the session, Croatian television revealed that the session discussed the latest statement made by the supreme command headquarters and conditions for the continuation of negotiations seeking a democratic solution to the Yugoslav crisis.

The same source cites that the council has decided that Stipe Mesic, Croatian representative and the vice president of the SFRY Presidency, is to take part in the work of tomorrow's Presidency session to be held in Belgrade.

Croatia's Racan Denounces LC-MY Accusations

AU2103173391 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 14 Mar 91 p 4

[S. V. report: "Incorrect Accusation"]

[Text] Zagreb—Mirjana Jakelic, president of the Committee of the League of Communists-Movement for Yugoslavia (for Croatia) [LC-MY] addressed an open letter to Party of Democratic Changes [SDP] President Ivica Racan, in which she accuses the SDP leader and his associates of having unduly influenced the Croatian authorities in their recent decision to impose a ban on a meeting to promote the LC-MY for Croatia and the city of Zagreb.

"It is not correct that the SDP in any way took part in the making of the decision concerning the ban of the promotional meeting of the LC-MY.

"The accusations are based on the belief that it is in the SDP's interest to prevent the promotion as well as the activities of your party," Racan replies and continues: "In fact, the existence of the LC-MY is in the interest of our party. The LC-MY program, and, above all, the way it is implemented, clearly demonstrate what we were fighting against at the 14th (extraordinary) adjourned congress of the Yugoslav League of Communists, what we won at the 11th congress of the League of Communists of Croatia, and what we opted for in our program at the first meeting of the SDP," Racan wrote in his reply.

Croatian, Slovene 'Shadow Governments' Meet

LD2003235791 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1802 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Zagreb, March 20 (TANJUG)—The shadow governments of Croatia and Slovenia at a joint meeting in the Croatian capital Zagreb criticized the authorities of the two north-western Yugoslav republics for paying too much attention to state symbols and political issues instead of tackling the growing economic and social problems.

Mato Crkvenac, prime minister in Croatia's shadow government of the Party of Democratic Changes (former communists), said the results achieved by the republic's ruling party in the fields of social policy and economy were very poor. Crkvenac pointed out that there were currently 230,000 unemployed workers in Croatia and that about 60 per cent of Croatia's households were living below subsistence level.

Emil Milan Pintar, prime minister in Slovenia's shadow government of the Party of Democratic Changes (former communists), said the opposition in the republic

expected new elections. He said the ruling [words indistinct] was not fulfilling the promises it had given in the election campaign last year.

Criticizing the Slovenian government for focusing its efforts on the question of the republic's secession while neglecting economic problems, Pintar said he believed Slovenia's unemployment figure would reach 100,000 by the end of the year.

Slovenia's shadow prime minister especially criticized the Slovenian government for its draft ownership law, under which social property could be transformed into state property.

President of the Party of Democratic Changes of Croatia Ivica Racan rebuked the Croatian government for a draft law which he said was unconstitutional, as its adoption would bring about "an escalation of repressive measures," in view of the fact that it would allow the government to disband communal assembles deemed to violate the constitution and laws of the republic of Croatia.

Serbian Assembly Rejects Jovic Resignation

AU2003183891 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1816 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Kosta Krajincanic report from the Serbian Assembly in Belgrade on 20 March]

[Text] [Krajincanic] The people's deputies of the Serbian Assembly have just voted. They have not accepted the resignation of Dr. Borisav Jovic as president of the SFRY Presidency. Only the explanation of the resignation was accepted, which was assessed as the personal, moral act of Dr. Jovic.

Only 17 deputies voted in favor of the resignation and there were four abstentions. At the end, Jovic once again thanked the deputies for the confidence that they expressed in him.

Jovic To Respect Decision

LD2003204291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1918 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Mar (TANJUG)—"It is up to you to decide, and I will respect your decision." This was stated this evening by Borisav Jovic at the end of the debate on his resignation. He expressed his satisfaction that unanimity was achieved in the course of the debate on the stance that the Yugoslav crisis can only be resolved in a democratic and peaceful manner.

The differences expressed here can only be useful, since they do not impinge on the overall national interest of the Serbian nation, which I find particularly encouraging, said Jovic.

Serbian Parties Deny Claims by Tudjman

LD2003221991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1409 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, March 20 (TANJUG)—The Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO) and the Democratic Party of Serbia said today they had not demanded from the Croatian president and Croatian authorities to help them in democratizing relations in Serbia.

According to Croatian radio, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman last night told foreign reporters in Zagreb that Croatian politicians and the public had been referred to by leading Serbian opposition members who demanded Croatia's help in democratization of Serbia. Tudjman also said that the SPO leadership had asked the Croatian news agency HINA to carry its statements and thus help overcome the information blockade in Serbia.

"The SPO and its president Vuk Draskovic have on no occasion contacted Franjo Tudjman, nor have they asked the Croatian news agency or any newspaper in Croatia to publish SPO statements. Any claims to this effect are pure fabrication" an SPO statement says.

The Democratic Party also said it had requested no contact, and subsequently had no contact with Croatian authorities.

"Tudjman's boasting that he can help someone, especially the Democratic Party of Serbia, in attempts to democratize relations in the republic is absurd, because any talks with Tudjman on Serbia's internal policy are out of the question" the party said.

"This not only testifies to the lack of a sense of proportion and bad taste, but also significantly aggravates possible future contacts relating to the problems in Yugoslavia", it added.

Deny Contacts With Tudjman

LD2003235491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1237 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Statement issued by the Serbian Democratic Party, signed by Dragoljub Micunovic, in Belgrade on 20 March]

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Mar (TANJUG)—In connection with the statement made by Croatian President [Franjo Tudjman] during his news conference for foreign journalists, to the effect that several prominent members of opposition parties in Serbia had asked him for support for democracy in Serbia, the Democratic Party has issued a statement saying that it had not sought nor established any contact with the Croatian authorities, the Croatian Democratic Community, Franjo Tudjman, or his associates.

"Tudjman's absurd boast that he could help anyone in general, and the Democratic Party in Serbia in particular, in its quest to make internal relations in Serbia democratic, testifies not only to a lack of decorum and of

a feeling for what is proper, but in addition, renders any possible future contacts in connection with the problems in Yugoslavia more difficult. And, it goes without saying, any talks with Tudjman on the Republic of Serbia's internal politics are ruled out," the statement concludes.

Serbia Nominates Ethnic Albanian for Presidency

LD2103145791 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1313 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, March 21 (TANJUG)—The Serbian parliament on Thursday nominated Deputy Sejdo Bajramovic candidate for the Yugoslav presidency member from Serbia's Province of Kosovo.

Bajramovic, an ethnic Albanian from Kosovo, should replace Riza Sapundziju, whom the Serbian parliament relieved of office on Monday.

In explaining the replacement proposal, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic said that Sapundziju "has participated for some time in work of the Presidency of Yugoslavia to the detriment of Serbia and Kosovo-Metohija, and has openly advocated the separatist positions."

Bajramovic's candidacy is subject to approval by the Yugoslav parliament. Until then, Vice-President of the Serbian parliament Vukasin Jokanovic will ex officio deputize for Sapundzihu in the state presidency.

Bajramovic was proposed by the parliamentary group of the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS).

Explaining the motion, the group's chairman Zoran Sokolovic said that Bajramovic "is an advocate of united Yugoslavia, a great patriot and a fighter against (ethnic) Albanian separatism."

Last night the group proposed as candidate for the post Tefiq Lugoci, who however declined the offer because of his duties as Serbian government minister of commerce and tourism.

The offers were also declined by Momcilo Trajkovic and Tomislav Sekulic, two Serbs from Kosovo who found themselves on a list of potential candidates proposed by some deputies yesterday.

Sejdo Bajramovic, born in 1927, is one of the oldest members of the Serbian parliament. He is a member of the SPS and president of the World War II veterans' organization in the provincial capital Pristina. His constituency, the commune Glogovac, is populated predominantly by ethnic Albanians.

Bajramovic stepped on the local political scene after 1981 by opposing energetically the demands of ethnic Albanian nationalists and separatists put forward in demonstrations in the province.

Serbian Assembly Protest Delayed Inquiry

LD2103122791 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1128 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, March 21 (TANJUG)—The serbian parliament's board of inquiry into the March 9 opposition demonstrations in Belgrade today asked for more time to present their report. The main reason for the request, said the board's chairman Dragoljub Aleksic, is an abundance of information—over 1,500 pages of testimony from those who participated in the demonstrations and about 35 hours of film footage, which all have to be studied. Aleksic promised that the report would be finished within three or five days.

The report was to be the highlight of the resumption of the Serbian parliament's session which started yesterday.

The board's findings should furnish a foundation for fixing responsibility in the demonstrations during which opposition party members and police engaged in fierce clashes.

The Serbian assembly should also review the resignation of Interior Minister Radmilo Bogdanovic, offered five days after the demonstrations at the request of Belgrade University students.

The board has 11 members—eight from the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia and three from the opposition. At today's session, the Serbian parliament should elect a representative from the Republic's Province of Kosovo to the Yugoslav state presidency to succeed Riza Sapunhxiu who was relieved on March 18. Parliament will also pronounce itself on a number of bills.

Following Knin, Several Municipalities Secede

LD2003170291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1554 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Knin, 20 Mar (TANJUG)—Councillors in the assemblies of the municipalities of Benovac and Obrovac today adopted a decision on secession from the Republic of Croatia.

The same decision was made a few days ago by the assemblies of the municipalities of Knin, Gracac, Donji Lapac, and Korenica. In the next few days, according to Risto Matkovic, secretary of the Knin municipal assembly, a decision on secession will be on the agendas of Vojnic, Vrgin, Mosty, Glina, and Dvor na Uni.

Draskovic: Milosevic Seeks 'To Provoke Chaos'

LD1903204491 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1522 GMT 19 Mar 91

[Text] Rome, March 19 (TANJUG)—Vuk Draskovic, head of the Serbian Renewal Movement (SRM) [SPO], the biggest oppositiom party in that Yugoslav epublic, said he did not believe a civil war would take place in Yugoslavia.

In an interview published today in the Milan daily CORRIERE DELLA SERA, Draskovic also said he doubted the possibility of a military intervention in Yugoslavia.

He laid the blame for the current situation in Yugoslavia on Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, against whom he ran at last December's elections in Serbia.

Milosevic is seeking to provoke chaos in the country, paving the ay for a coup d'etat, Draskovic said, adding that a coup was now the nly means by which Milosevic could remain in power.

In Draskovic's view, Milosevic enjoyed majority support in Serbia until just a few days ago (i.e., the demonstrations in Belgrade in which two persons were killed and over 100 injured in clashes between police and opposition demonstrators).

The youth is now against Milosevic, Draskovic said, adding that the opposition would not stop until a final victory.

"The communists must go," Draskovic said, adding that the opposition would demand new elections in the republic.

Kucan Urges Germany To Adopt 'Flexible Stand'

LD2003193291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1729 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Belgrade, March 20 (TANJUG)—Milan Kucan, president of Yugoslavia's northwestern Republic of Slovenia, stated in Bonn today that he expected Germany to take a "more flexible stand" towards Slovenia and Yugoslavia.

Kucan said that, apart from supporting Yugoslavia's integrity, the possibility of the creation of "two or more states" should also be borne in mind.

Kucan stressed that Slovenia "does not want to burden Europe," and that Yugoslavia's problems could be resolved only at home.

Commenting the relieving of duty of the Yugoslav State Presidency member from the Province of Kosovo, which is part of the Republic of Serbia, Kucan said that Slovenia "has for long considered Serbia a political partner, and not the provinces."

Slovenia's president said that, now that Yugoslav State Presidency President Dr. Borisav Jovic had resigned, he saw " a chance for a successful dialogue of equal partners." Kucan specified that he was an optimist and that "possibilities for a Yugoslav accord still exist."

Slovenian Newspapers Criticize Army, Markovic

LD2003235891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1652 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Ljubljana, March 20 (TANJUG)—The daily VECER, published in Maribor, the second-biggest town in the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia, said today that Slovenia could soon find itself in the midst of a military coup, as it does not fulfil several conditions set by the Yugoslav People's Army (YPA) [JNA] for the democratic settlement of the crisis.

The YPA General Staff on Tuesday [19 March] demanded that compulsory army service be respected, as provided by the Constitution, and the territorial defence returned under YPA command.

Slovenia recently adopted laws enabling potential conscripts from the republic to avoid serving their tour of duty in the YPA, and placing territorial defence under republican command.

The daily DELO today criticized Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic for "siding with the General Staff" in the letter he sent on Tuesday to Slovenian Premier Lojze Peterle.

DELO, published in the Slovenian capital Ljubljana, based its criticism on Markovic's demand that all Slovenian territorial defence units be returned under YPA command and the moratorium on sending Slovenian conscripts to YPA service be lifted.

Kosovo Parties Reject Census Participation

AU2003092691 Skopje FLAKA E VELLAZERIMIT in Albanian 15 Mar 91 p 4

[Blerim Reka and Emin Azemi report: "Cash From the Federal Fund for Kosovo Divided Among the Enterprises of Serbia!"]

[Text] Pristina, 14 Mar—The dignified commemoration of a great anniversary in Kosovo continues: the 10th anniversary of the events of 1981. Besides seminars and respects paid to the martyrs of the "Kosovo spring," this important date in our recent history was also marked yesterday and today in Podujevo and its district, Shala e Mitrovices, Terstenik, Prizren, and elsewhere. It has been reported that this anniversary was also marked by our compatriots far from Kosovo, in New York, where 4,000 demonstrators yesterday filed past the UN building and the city's Yugoslav Consulate to present a petition to the UN Secretariat and the Yugoslav consul-general against the repressive Serbian policies in Kosovo. The 10th anniversary of the events of 1981 was also marked at the Abdulla Krashnica Club of our workers, in Namur, Belgium.

While commemoration of this event continues, Kosovo is also protesting the continuation of state repression against everything that is Albanian. At its regular news conference yesterday, the Kosovo Union of Independent

Trade Unions [BSPK] stated again its preliminary assessment that social and economic violence continues. This trade union protested the imprisonment of Xhafer Nuli, chairman of the Independent Trade Union at Trepca's Stari Trg mine, and demanded his immediate release. It was said that the International Trade Union Confederation and the European Parliament have also been informed of this case. BSPK Deputy Chairman Aziz Abrashi told journalists about the recent visit of the International Trade Union Confederation, and said that its delegation expressed readiness to cooperate with the BSPK. The elections for the Assembly of the Kosovo Chamber of Commerce were also declared invalid at this conference, because the Albanians did not take part in them. BSPK leaders also told journalists about the distribution of the resources of the Federal Fund destined for Kosovo's budget to enterprises in Serbia, such as Zitostog and Voceprodukt in Pozarevac, Intereksport in Belgrade, Prva Petoletka in Trstenik, VIK in Vrsac, and El in Nis.

Asked by a journalist from Slovenia whether and when the dismissed Albanian workers would return to work, Aziz Abrashi said that the Albanians will return to their jobs, but he did not say when or how.

In connection with the forthcoming census, the Albanian political parties in Kosovo recently sent a letter to the SFRY Presidency, the Federal Executive Council, and the Federal Statistical Institute, stating among other things that, while preparations for the census are not being completed at the expected speed, other conditions are also insufficient for it to be conducted. The preparation and organization of all its preliminary phases in Kosovo have been interrupted by the dismissal of Albanian workers from the Kosovo Statistical Institute and the introduction of enforced measures in this institution for no reason whatever. Under such circumstances, the participation of Kosovo's Albanian population in the census would give rise to major shortcomings in the collection and quality of the data, and would provide many opportunities for the manipulation of sensitive questions, to the detriment of the Albanians. The chairmen of the Albanian political parties stated to the highest federal bodies that the minimal conditions for the organization of the census in Kosovo, in which the overwhelming majority of the population is Albanian, are as follows: the lifting of the state of emergency and the restoration of constitutionality; the removal of police forces and the creation of a favorable political and psychological climate; the reinstatement of all Albanian employees at the Kosovo Statistical Institute, who must assume their tasks in both the census and the institute's regular work; the formation of a council for the census consisting of statistical experts from the institute and others, including demographers, economists, and lawyers who will direct the organization of the census; the formation of a mixed and impartial commission to supervise the census; the creation of a census bureau, as on earlier occasions; the appointment of communal census commissions to match the national composition of the population of the communes; the training of canvassers at Kosovo and commune level; the preparation of questionnaires in two copies, to avoid possible manipulation arising from the atmosphere of interethnic distrust and, even more, distrust of the state authorities; the conduct of the census of the Albanians by Albanians; the interpretation of census data about the Albanian population by Albanians; the processing and publication of preliminary results by the Kosovo Statistical Institute; the publication of RILINDJA as the sole Albanian-language daily newspaper; and the restoration of Pristina Radio and Television.

The political parties in Kosovo do not have the slightest political or moral right to ask their members or the Albanian population to take part in the census. If all the aforementioned conditions are not met, it will be necessary to postpone the registration of the population, family businesses, apartments, and farms, concludes the letter sent by the Albanian political parties to the SFRY Presidency, the Federal Executive Council, and the Federal Statistical institute.

The Forum of Albanian Intellectuals also discussed the census in Kosovo at its meeting yesterday. The Forum stressed once again that under the circumstances of the state of emergency and the suspension of the Kosovo Assembly, the Kosovo Executive Council, and the Kosovo Statistical Institute, the conditions that would permit a census in Kosovo are not present. This census must therefore be postponed until these conditions are created.

Pec District Court yesterday sentenced six lawyers from Decani to between two and four and one-half years' imprisonment because, as the charge stated, they attempted to adapt the commune's statutes to the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo and thus committed the criminal act of "jeopardizing the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia and Serbia."

There is no end to mysterious deaths in Kosovo. An unidentified victim was discovered this morning in a field beside the Djakovica-Dollc road near the village of Gremnik. The circumstances of his death are still unknown.

The Executive Council of Prizren Communal Assembly (which consists solely of Serbs and Montenegrins) recently submitted a strange application to the Serbian Assembly, asking this body to dismiss all the Albanian teachers from Prizren's elementary and secondary schools and to replace them with Serbs and Montenegrins.

On the subject of the Serbs and Montenegrins in Kosovo, they are still preoccupied with the course of events in Belgrade since the 9 March demonstrations. It has been noticed that the Leftist bloc (The Socialist Party of Serbia and the League of Communists-Movement for Yugoslavia) are somewhat more muted in their calls for support for the current Serbian leadership, apparently after the sorsening of divisions in the wake of events in

Belgrade but also throughout Serbia and Montenegro, where the demands of the students and the opposition are receiving plebiscitary support with an insistence on the total resignation of the Serbian government led by Dragutin Zelenovic. Meanwhile, the Serbian opposition in Kosovo, as in the first days of the conflicts in Belgrade, is unreservedly on Vuk Draskovic's side. The Serbian and Montenegrin students of Pristina University, although with some delay, held a solidarity meeting with their Belgrade colleagues on the premises of the Rectorate yesterday.

Although the Serbian and Montenegrin students of Pristina University supported their Belgrade colleagues, they did not utter a word of support for their Albanian colleagues in Pristina and in particular those of the Medical Faculty who have been unable to regularly attend classes. The Medical Faculty Students' Union yesterday issued a press communique and for the fifth time sent an official request to the Pristina University Rectorate, in the name of 1,600 Albanian students, calling on the authorities of the University and the Medical Faculty to instruct the Faculty's dean to enable Albanian students to regularly attend lectures in Albanian. The request concludes by stating that the students will wait until 15 March for a reply from the Rectorate stating that regular classes may begin on 18 March. Otherwise, they will be compelled to act in their own interests.

After the "removal" of archive material from the Kosovo Archive to Belgrade, the Kosovo Archive's Independent Trade Union strongly condemned the unscrupulous looting of this archive material and demanded its return. It was stated that 300 boxes of archive material, important for the history of the peoples of Kosovo and including data about the agrarian reform, the work of Kosovo courts, etc., had been plundered. The protest stated that this was a criminal act under our laws and a violation of international law.

Kosovo's Sapundziju To Attend Presidency Session

LD2003174991 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Statement by Riza Sapundziju during telephone conversation with Bedzet Baraljiu in Belgrade on 20 March]

[Text] [Basaljiu] Riza Sapundziju stated that he still considers himself as a legitimate member of the SFRY Presidency on the basis of the 1974 Constitution, which is still in force. The justification of my release from the post given by the Serbian Assembly is completely groundless. Together with the president of the Kosovo Presidency, Hisen Kajdomcaj, I persistently asked that Kosovo becomes an equal element of the Yugoslav federation, Sapundziju stated. I support Vasil Tupurkovski's assessments in connection with my unconstitutional release. I was elected by the Kosovo Assembly, and it alone can relieve me from the post. On several occasions I expressed disagreements in the SFRY Presidency with the conclusions about the situation in Kosovo, about constant repressions, dismissals, and the abolition, of autonomy in Kosovo.

Commenting on the SFRY Presidency session that voted on the Army proposal [to introduce the state of emergency], Sapundziju made it clear that he voted against the proposal, because he wants to see the dialogue about the future order in Yugoslavia continue.

Asked whether he will take part in tomorrow's sesssion of the SFRY Presidency, Sapundziju stressed that he was invited to it before his release. As I still regard myself as a legitimate representative of the SFRY Presidency on the basis of the 1974 Yugoslav Constitution, I shall take part in the session, if health permits and if I am not prevented, he said.

Karadzic on Bosnian Serbs' 'Impossible Position'

AU2003160991 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 16 Mar 91 p 6

[M. Duric report: "We Cannot Accept an Independent State of Croatia or an Independent State of Bosnia-Hercegovina"]

[Text] Sarajevo, 15 Mar—Even though a crowd of people was waiting for him at Usce Park in Belgrade, Dr. Radovan Karadzic nevertheless took the risk and went to Terazije Street. Why? This was a question put to the president of the Serbian Democratic Party of Bosnia-Hercegovina last night by the Jutel editor Goran Milic.

It seemed to me that the student meeting was the most acceptable, and it was shown that the students were the most mature in the whole situation, just as in 1968. And what would it have seemed like if I, as someone of the sixties, had not supported the students, Karadzic answered.

As he said, this is particularly the case since he agrees with the students' demands and their view of things in Serbia, among the Serbian people, and in Yugoslavia, because they are totally acceptable.

As the journalist Goran Milic pointed out, the representatives of the Serbian Democratic Party of Bosnia-Hercegovina, headed by Dr. Karadzic, have a certain kind of aggressivity in that they set ultimatums.

The Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina immediately began with compromises and now, Karadzic said, we are being asked to compromise even more, to go further than compromises, toward a confederation. We do not have a firm view on any issue except on the issue of the reorganization of the state. If this reorganization were to put us in the position of national minorities we would really have to be firm in this respect, and I believe—Karadzic said—that there is not one single Serb in Bosnia-Hercegovina who would allow us to accept an independent Croatia or Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Karadzic repeated the belief that Serbia is stronger now and that it will become stronger from day to day. It is overlooked, especially because some incompetent monopolists have failed, that there will be a great circulation of people and ideas and that Serbia will indeed be a great surprise.

Milic then asked Karadzic whether a future Bosnia-Hercegovina could perhaps be a sovereign republic like all the other republics.

If Bosnia-Hercegovina were to be sovereign to the extent to which all the other republics are, we would accept this, Karadzic said. He recalled that this is written in the constitution of Bosnia-Hercegovina even now. It is written that Bosnia-Hercegovina is a sovereign state of citizens and peoples. We want it to remain that way. The second provision says that Bosnia-Hercegovina is part of the SFRY. We would sacrifice this "socialist" label, but we cannot sacrifice the "federal" one. We will always advocate an equal Bosnia-Hercegovina and that it be as sovereign as Serbia is, for example, no more and no less. Bosnia-Hercegovina should be completely sovereign.

We will agree with the Party of Democratic Action and the Croatian Democratic Community, Karadzic added, on all issues concerning the economy, politics, culture, democracy, and so on. Our political, economic, and cultural life, however, depends on whether Croatia and Slovenia will leave Yugoslavia. We are therefore in the most unfortunate position. It does not depend on our will, nor on the Party of Democratic Action, nor on the Croatian Democratic Community. The Party of Democratic Action says, for example, that if Croatia and Slovenia remain, and particularly Croatia, then we will remain....We are, therefore, dependent on the behavior of others. This is an impossible position.

Macedonia's Gligorov on Presidency Session

AU2103192391 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov, commenting on the SFRY Presidency talks, said it is good that the talks are continuing and that all realize that there is no alternative to peaceful and democratic dialogue to solve the country's current problems.

I have requested, and think that it has been accepted, Gligorov said, that until a final agreement is reached that we should refrain from inappropriate statements that upset the public and insult individual political leaders and that one should respect the existing legal and economic system in the country. Otherwise, we create chaos that benefits nobody.

Gligorov indicated that it is necessary to adopt transitional measures, including financing the state to the end of the negotiations on the future of Yugoslavia, and that views have been coordinated on all essential questions apart from the budget. [sentence as heard]

Gligorov thinks that Yugoslavia must have one money and one central bank. He points out that Croatian and Slovene initiative on the meetings of all republican leaderships has been accepted, which would mean that their stands will be much clearer afterwards.

Macedonia Bans Founding of Albanian Group

LD1603165891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1427 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Tetovo, March 16 (TANJUG)—The authorities in the Yugoslav republic of Macedonia on Saturday banned the holding of the founding assembly of the branch of "Albanian Cultural Community" from Tetovo at the nearby village of Grupcin.

The Tetovo and republican police banned as early as last summer the association from being registered assessing it as "militant, separatist and chauvinist."

The reason for this was that at the village of Sipkovica in August last year a number of ethnic Albanians from Serbia's Kosovo province and a number of citizens of neighboring Albania took part in a meeting, apart from some ten thousand ethnic Albanians from Macedonia.

The Federal Justice and Administration Secretariat on Saturday announced it has established that the activities of this community ran counter to its program and statute and that, instead of cultural and educational activities, the community engaged in political activity.

Such activity ran contrary to the law, the announcement set out, and this is why the Federal Secretariat banned the "Albanian Cultural Community."

Kljusev Elected Macedonian Prime Minister

LD2003175491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1608 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Skopje, 20 Mar (TANJUG)—During its session today the Macedonian Assembly elected a government of experts led by Prime Minister Dr. Nikola Kljusev. The new nonparty government has three vice prime ministers, 15 ministers in charge of a ministerial department, and four ministers without portfolio.

In an open vote 83 deputies voted for the government, 17 voted against, and three abstained.

Macedonian President Kiro Glikorov; Dr. Vasil Tupurkovski, the SFRY Presidency member from Macedonia; representatives of all political parties; and leaders of religious communities were present when the government was elected.

Novi Sad Adopts Draft Provincial Statute

AU2103163791 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 13 Mar 91 p 10

[TANJUG report: "The Draft Statute of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina Adopted"]

[Text] Novi Sad, 12 Mar—The deputies of all three chambers of the Novi Sad Communal Assembly at today's joint session adopted, by the majority vote, the draft statute of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. This document, together with all proposals and opinions expressed in the public discussion and in the aforementioned session, will be submitted to the Vojvodina Assembly.

During the discussion many completely opposing views were expressed ranging from those that the draft statute of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina should not be adopted to the conclusion made by the Executive Council of the Novi Sad Communal Assembly that in the process of summarizing the public discussion, the preparations, and reviewing of the draft statute of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, the appropriateness of its adoption should be reexamined before the discussion and the adoption of the republican laws.

Reportage on Budimir Loncar's Mideast Visit

WC1210135091

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar and his delegation to the Middle East, including reports on talks held in Kuwait with the prime minister and amir, as well as his visit to Egypt, see the Arabian Peninsula and Arab Africa sections of the 20 March and subsequent issues of the Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT.